

## ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month. The first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are the most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its natural end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

Part of our reflections center on the precious gift of life that is our personal gift from God. If each of us believes this to be true for our self, then we must believe it to be true for others. Thus, it appeals to us the proper respect due to all persons who possess this precious gift from God. We are called upon to give careful reflection on the serious moral issues surrounding life. In essence all moral issues ultimately deal with and are based upon genuine respect for life. All moral issues ultimately deal with our relationship with one another. It is based upon our proper respect we have for our self. In the gospels Jesus reminds us that the Commandments are summed up in Love: love for God and love for your neighbor. If you think about it stealing, lying, adultery etc. are all offenses against another person. In pressing this further these sins are also offenses against our own dignity. If we have little regard or respect for our own dignity as being created in the image and likeness of God, we will have little respect for the God given dignity in others. Thus, our immoral/sinful behavior not only offends or hurts others they also damage our God-given dignity. The whole moral law is concerned with our dealings with persons. Morality is ultimately about respecting life.

During "Respect Life Month" we focus more specifically on those issues that directly attack life itself. The scope of our reflections are those attacks directed on the most vulnerable members of our society known as abortion, euthanasia, physician assisted suicide, embryonic stem cell research, cloning and so forth. We have raised awareness of these issues often. We have also reaffirmed the Catholic Church's persistent moral stance on these issues on a regular basis. We know that we cannot be silent on these issues because society constantly brings these up as resolved issues. Thus, on this very point we are reminded that a common norm in society points to the saying... "*Silence gives consent*". We cannot be silent on these issues. We do not consent for society's moral laxity on life issues. These issues are not morally resolved.

If we remain silent these issues, they will go unchallenged. The ultimate effect will be acceptance of these practices as part of the normal fabric of our society because no one objected. In many cases this has happened. As a result, many have become indifferent to the seriousness of the life issues. We are very aware that the Catholic Church has taken a strong position on these issues and to be honest most people in our society hardly pay attention to the clear reasoning behind the Church's stand. As a matter of course, society assumes that the Church is always against everything. So, the push is on until people are sick of hearing about it. Oh hum!

Nevertheless, we are called upon to pray and reflect on the life issues. With the grace of God and a sincere desire to open our minds to the truth, we will grow in a greater understanding of the wisdom and greatness of God. We will also discover that when it comes to the life issues that our attention to the small things is just as important as the big things.

As a priest I have been called upon to be with people dealing with life threatening issues. I recall several occasions where various individuals were facing the frightening diagnosis of cancer. Many have had to undergo surgery addressing cancer. There is always that recurring question after surgery... "Doctor, did you get it all?" When it comes to these kinds of situations, we are very aware that a microscopic cancer cell can be life threatening. The "small thing" mattered. This is so true about a cancer cell. It's only a small cell but a doctor can look at a single cell under a microscope and state that this is a cancer cell. We want nothing to do with a single cancer cell in our body. That one cell has the potential of jeopardizing a life.

As I think about this my thoughts go to another single cell: a fertilized human egg. When it comes to this single cell many people want to call it all kinds of things other than what it truly is: a new human life. They call it "tissue" or the "product of conception" or anything else, but not a new human life. Yet in that cell there is everything that is needed for a full human life. Amazingly this microscopic cell matters. Thus, we can discover the goodness and wisdom of God in this smallest of cells. In this case, the "small thing" matters.

This reminds me of a euphemism that is often used about this "small thing". Sometimes people refer to a human embryo as a "*potential human being*." As if this embryo could be something other than human! I don't know about you, but I find this euphemism to be repugnant. It drives me crazy whenever I hear it, especially when it is use by reporters or commentators in the news. This phrase is useful for justifying, softening or denying the truth of abortion. It is also used in reference in the support for embryonic stem cell research and cloning; two particular issues that we do not hear much in the news as of late. Nevertheless, my suspicion is that these last two issues have not gone away but are being pursued quietly in various laboratories. The use of this phraseology renders the embryonic cell to the status of *inanimate object*: not human. Thus this "material" can be used for various experiments or for disposal. The truth of the matter is that the embryo is not a "*potential human being*". The embryo is a human embryo. It is a human being. The more precise language would say that this embryo is a "*human being with potential*". Our human words can articulate the truth or distort the issues.

Nevertheless, God reveals His greatness in the smallest of details. It is true that the mother and father contribute the human matter for the new human being: the genetic matter. God *creates* the new soul at that time for this new human being. Thus, in our Christian tradition we express the conception of a new human being as procreation. Man and woman work directly with God in the work of creation. This is something that continually happens every minute of the day. It is so common place that it is hardly noticed as the miraculous event that it is. Yet this is the miracle of new life. God is profoundly involved in this miracle. Thus, this new life deserves our genuine respect as well as our prayer of thanksgiving to God.

October is Respect Life Month. The theme for this month is "*Christ our Hope in every season of life*". We live in a broken sinful world. Humanity is imperfect and flawed. Left to itself humanity tends to despair; a world without hope. We have a Savior, Jesus Christ. He alone is our Hope for the fullness of life, now and for all eternity. Our prayer for greater respect for the gift of life is an expression of our Hope in the redeeming presence of Christ in our lives. We will continue to pray for greater respect for the gift of life from the moment of conception until natural

death because we are moved by Hope in the enduring grace of God in Christ.

Lastly, the month of October is also known as the month of the Rosary. During the month of October, we pray the rosary before mass on Sundays. You are most welcomed to come to church earlier to join in this prayer. It is a good way to prepare oneself for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Have a Blessed Week.

Father Ralko

**Note Well:** Next Sunday, October 13, Fr. John Stattmiller will be here to cover the 8:15 mass. I will hopefully be leaving this Thursday 10/10 for a vacation. I am going to be traveling with some of my siblings on a "bucket list" adventure. There will not be a morning mass on Friday.

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:  
Harold K. Pritchard*

All are invited to join the students for breakfast, next Sunday, **October 13** in the St. Nicholas Church basement following all Masses.

**Mark Your Calendar for the Saturday Night Parish Dinner on Saturday, October 26th immediately following the 5:15 p.m. Mass in the Parish Social Hall (church basement). The menu will be lasagna, salad and breadsticks. Donations are appreciated to continue future dinners.**



**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.

### **ROSARY RALLY 2018**

Come and join us for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of "Our Lady of Fatima's apparitions" to be held **Sunday Oct. 13** from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in front of the Muskingum County Courthouse. 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.

**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.

**DO YOU HAVE A WILL OR 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**The Catholic Schools of Zanesville** is currently taking nominations for our Board of Trustees. The Board meets once a month to provide our Directors and Educators with counsel and advice regarding issues affecting the school and assistance with implementing school policies. Nomination forms are due **Friday, Oct. 11** and are available at Bishop Fenwick and Bishop Rosecrans and in the front pews this weekend.

### **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. For more information about Men of The East contact Mike Musselman at 453-9806.

### **"MONTH OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY"**

Please join St. Nicholas parishioners before each Mass during the month of October to pray the Rosary. Our prayer intention will be for the Church. Come 20 minutes early to Mass to pray!! There will be packets with a rosary and pamphlet on 'How to Pray the Rosary' in each pew. Use it each weekend and then you can take it home on the **last weekend**, if you like!!

### **EASTSIDE COMMUNITY MINISTRY**

You are invited to join us at one of open houses to learn more about the programs & services of Eastside and how we can work together to "create a better community, by serving our neighbors in need". We are located at 221 Stilwell St. Dates are: Tues. 10/8 @ 10:00 a.m., Thurs. 10/10 @ 3:00 p.m., Tues. 10/15 @ 3:00 p.m. and Thurs. 10/17 @ 10:00 a.m. Please RSVP at 452-7519 or ecm@eastsidecommunity.org

### **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.

### **Building a Culture of Life Conference**

On October 19, 2019 Bishop Robert Brennan will cap a day of presentations from prominent pro-life speakers on public policy, racism, new resources for end of life, and legislative updates. New this year: Break-out sessions for Families, Respect Life Coordinators, and Youth Ministers. For more information and to register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com>

**27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE**

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

**October 13, 2019**

**28th Sunday In Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, October 12 @ 5:15 p.m.**

Cantor: Laura DeCoy

Lectors: Sylvia Norris, Maggie Wright

Servers: Justin Ewart, Charles Peterson

Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Vicki Burns

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Alan Burns, Paula Peterson

Eucharistic Ministers: Jon Calendine, Mary Calendine, Margaret

Kronenbitter, Scott Peterson

**Sunday, October 13 @ 8:15 a.m.**

Cantor: Sandy Black

Lector: Bill Sullivan, Susan Thompson

Servers: Caiden Hogue, Nathan Hustey

Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Bill Altier

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Angie Hustey,

Dan Sylvester

Eucharistic Ministers: Jim Hillis, Theresa Hogue, Kevin Jones,

Marvin Paul

**Sunday, October 13 @ 10:45 a.m.**

Cantor: Ryan Teti

Lectors: Keena Hansel, Sam Palleschi

Servers: Nicholas Bernath, Will Bernath

Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Claire Tiberio

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Diana Dunn, Paul Ritchey

Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Arnold, Molly Ritchey, Larry

Taylor, Gerald Tiberio

***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, October 7, Our Lady of the Rosary**

8:00 a.m., Mass: Mary Baughman, Church

**TUESDAY, October 8**

8:00 a.m., Mass: Mary Lou Wagner, Church

9:30 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office

6:00 p.m., Estate Planning Seminar, Parish Office

**WEDNESDAY, October 9, St. Denis and Companions**

8:00 a.m., Mass: Russell Glaub, Church

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

**THURSDAY, October 10**

NO MASS

**FRIDAY, October 11, St. John XXIII**

NO MASS

***28th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

**SATURDAY, October 12, Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos**

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: Michael Wilson, Church

**SUNDAY, October 13**

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

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

10:45 a.m., Mass: Linda Brown and Richard W. Brown, Church

**Church Support**

SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

OFFERTORY	\$6,223.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$2,334.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly deficit	<u>\$(4,526.00)</u>

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

***Readings for Week of October 7***

Mon. . . . .	Jon 1;1-2:2, 11	Lk 10:25-37
Tues. . . . .	Jon 3:1-10	Lk 10:38-42
Wed . . . . .	Jon 4:1-11	Lk 11:1-4
Thurs. . . . .	Mal 3:13-20b	Lk 11:5-13
Fri. . . . .	Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2	Lk 11:15-26
Sat. . . . .	Jl 4:12-21	Lk 11:27-28
Sun . . . . .	2Kgs 5:14-17	Lk 17:11-19