

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we welcome Fr. John Stattmiller once again to cover for me this weekend. I am greatly thankful for his help so that I can get away for a few days. As I indicated last Sunday, I am off with a couple of my siblings on a bucket list adventure. If all goes well, I will be in Wisconsin this weekend for Monday Night football at Lambeau Field for the Green Bay Packers versus the Detroit Lions game. This has been in the plans for over a year and we have been looking forward to this trip.

Since I will be away there will not be a morning mass through the week. St. Thomas has mass Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri at 9:00 a.m. and Wed at noon. They are closed on Oct. 14 for Columbus Day.

As mentioned in last week's bulletin, October is the month of the Rosary. With that in mind I thought a little information/reflection on the Rosary would be appropriate since we are praying the Rosary before the Sunday masses throughout the month.

Having benefitted from Catholic Education as a child and due to the sacrifices made by my parents, I was immersed in the Catholic Culture. Every aspect of our lives was filled with the Catholic Faith. We were made aware of Saints Days, feast days of the Liturgical calendar, Holy Days of Obligation and the prayers that are so common for all Catholics. As students in a Catholic School we learned all "our prayers by heart". So, when there was a need to turn to God in prayer, we had a whole arsenal of prayers that we could say to fit the occasion. Apart from the prayers of the mass, we also learned to pray the Rosary with its mysteries: The Apostles Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory to God. This was a monumental task when we were first graders but became second nature to us as we got older. As we learned these prayers, we would then practice them by praying the Rosary. On special occasions we would go to Church, which was down the hall since the school was attached to the Church, and as a class we would pray the Rosary. As children we were eager to learn these important prayers, go to church and actually pray them. We learned the prayers by continuous practice. We also knew that we were doing something important: the prayers of children.

One of the things that we learned about the Rosary was that it was a practical thing for the laity. The Rosary was a substitute for praying all 150 Psalms of the Old Testament. The Rosary consisted of fifteen decades of the three sets of mysteries totaling one-hundred and fifty Hail Marys. The official prayer of the Church consists in part the praying of all 150 Psalms (along with several scriptural canticles) in the Liturgy of the Hours. The Rosary was more accessible for the laity to share in the prayer of the official prayer of the Church. Ideally praying the Psalms is preferred, but many do not have the luxury of time to pray them. The Rosary, because it is memorized is easily accessible at any time and in any place.

It has been the tradition of the Church, from the very earliest times, to encourage the praying of the Psalms. There are a couple of reasons for this. First, Jesus being a devout Jew prayed the Psalms. This was the devout prayer of the Jews and of Jesus. Being so it should also be the prayer of his followers. Secondly, the Psalms are Sacred Scripture: The Word of God. Praying the Psalms is a way of welcoming the Word of God into our minds and hearts. In a very real way, it is welcoming Jesus Christ into

our minds and hearts since he is the Word of God made flesh. There is an Incarnational element involved here.

If you think about the Psalms, in general we also see the Mysteries of the Rosary. There are moments in Israel's history of joy expressed in the Psalms. The times in Israel's history of peace and prosperity: the good times. There are also moments of struggles, sorrow and contrition for sins of infidelity. These are expressed in the penitential Psalms. Then there are Psalms that express victorious moments evoking praise and thanksgiving. These are glorious moments reflecting the faithfulness and saving power of God. God loves his people.

In recent times there have been more mysteries added to the Rosary by Pope St. John Paul. These are the Illuminous Mysteries. This sort of throws a wrench into the 150 Psalms scheme. However, these mysteries are a meditation on moments in the life of Jesus that have particular importance for reaffirming our Catholic Christian Faith. Recalling these mysteries while praying the Rosary has a way of letting them "soak in" to our minds and hearts. The Illuminous Mysteries are 1. The Baptism of the Lord. 2. The Wedding at Cana. 3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom. 4. The Transfiguration. 5. The Establishment of the Eucharist. Just the same, the Rosary is ultimately a reflection centered on the life of Jesus Christ.

As part of the history of the Rosary, in the 1200s St. Dominic received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary instructing him to preach (the Dominicans are the Order of Preachers) and promote the praying of the Rosary. This prayer was for the good of souls, the assistance in time of trials and temptations and for the good of the Church in the world.

The Rosary is Scriptural. The prayers and the meditations on the Life of Jesus Christ are all found in the Scriptures. Obviously, the Our Father and the Doxology are found in the Gospels and the Book of Revelation respectively. It is not often noticed that the Hail Mary primarily comes from the Gospel of St. Luke. The First part of the Hail Mary is comprised of the words of the Angel to Mary at the Annunciation and the words of Elizabeth to Mary at the Visitation. (Note well these scenes are depicted in the stained-glass windows of our church.) The only exception is the last words of the Hail Mary which were added..." *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.*" These words were added during the time of the Black Death which wiped out one-third of the population of Europe. It was an outcry of the people to the Holy Mother of God to pray for us and to protect us with her motherly care *now* and *at the hour of our death*. During the time of the Black Death these two moments, "now and the hour of our death", are a reality and a continuous appeal even to this day.

The praying of the Rosary is a very simple prayer. It is also the most difficult in that it takes time, and many give into the temptation to abandon the prayer because it is repetitive nature. The repetitive praying of the Hail Mary is not a multiplication of words but more precisely a bringing of the body and mind into a calm rhythm for meditation. The fast pace of our world makes it difficult for us to slow down and engage in meditative prayer. The Rosary has a way of calming our busy lives.

There is one more thing that I would like to bring to our attention. When we seek the intercession of the Blessed Mother, she will always bring us to her beloved son: Jesus. The simple thought is to recall that no one loved Jesus more in this world than his own mother. When we turn to Mary in prayer, she will always take us to the one she loved the most: her son Jesus. Mary will always share with us that which she most loves and cherishes.

She who loves Jesus with a pure heart knows exactly what this love is. When Mary leads us to her son, Jesus, she will inspire in us greater love for Jesus. Mary teaches us how to truly love our Blessed Lord.

Mary is the Mother of Jesus Christ. Mary is the Mother of the Church: The Body of Christ. As the Mother of the Church, Mary is the Mother of all Christians. Thus, in confidence we turn to Mary as her children and she will provide her motherly intercession and care. The Blessed Mother will always lead us to Jesus.

The Rosary is a simple prayer just as it is a powerful, effective prayer. The praying of the Rosary is a Scriptural Prayer all the way through. It does exactly what prayer should do; lead us into a deeper loving relationship with Jesus Christ who is our life and our salvation.

Have a Blessed Week.
Father Ralko

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:
Gary E. Joseph, Sr.*

*The altar flowers this weekend are in memory
of the wedding anniversary of:*



Gene & Marilou (Tice) Ehleiter

All are invited to join the students for breakfast, today 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.

Sunday, October 20th, the Daughters of Isabella will host a bake sale after all the Masses. Please support the charitable works of the Daughters of Isabella.

Confirmation students, their parents and sponsors are reminded to attend the sacramental meeting Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish activity center (school gym).



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 1:30-3:30 p.m. in front of the Muskingum County Courthouse. Please be there between 1:00-1:30. 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.

"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!!

**CRUISE IN AND OLDIES CONCERT TO BENEFIT
MUSKINGUM COUNTY HUNGER NETWORK**

Secrest Auditorium- **Sunday, October 13**
Cruise In 10:00 a.m. Food trucks available for lunch
Matt Frampton to open concert at 1:00 p.m.
Don Susa and the Dantes from Pittsburgh at 2:00 p.m.
featuring hits from the 50's and 60's
Admission: nonperishable food items or monetary donations

A Letter to A Suffering Church – Now that you've read the book, watch the video! Bishop Barron has created a short video series for use when reading the book. Watch Bishop Barron's message on the St. Nicholas Catholic Church Web Page found at www.stnickparish.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.

**RETROUVAILLE PROGRAM FOR MARRIED COUPLES
STRUGGLING IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP- OCT. 25-27**

Retrouvaille is a Christian marriage program (of Catholic origin) for couples considering marriage separation or who are already separated or divorced. A weekend experience is followed by a weekly series of 2-hour talks that expand on the weekend concepts. For more information and to register go to: <https://www.helpourmarriage.org>

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

October 20, 2019

29th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 19 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Ryan Teti
Lectors: Nichole Hannahs, Nancy Susa
Servers: Libby Pratt, Luke Pratt
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Jennifer Bernett
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Margaret Kronenbitter, Don Susa
Eucharistic Ministers: Dottie Durant, Judy Hamilton, Susan Pratt, Karen Robinson

Sunday, October 20 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Janet Moses
Lector: Peggy Hill, Sue Hillis
Servers: David Eppley, J. D. Wilson
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Jim Hillis
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Linda Haswell, John Haswell
Eucharistic Ministers: Ashley Jones, Philip Kocoloski, Jim Pottmeyer, Dodi Sealock

Sunday, October 20 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy
Lectors: Patti Logan, Rocky Rowe
Servers: Rex Hankinson, Mason Harmon
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Laurie Harmon
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Mary Mirgon, Erin Roush
Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Arnold, Tim Hoffer, Jim McKee, 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.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, October 14

NO MASS

TUESDAY, October 15

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, October 16

NO MASS

THURSDAY, October 17

NO MASS

FRIDAY, October 18

NO MASS

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, October 19

*4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: Bill Sullivan, birthday, Church*

SUNDAY, October 20

*8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church
9:15 a.m., Religious Education, Bishop Fenwick School
10:45 a.m., Mass: Wesley L. Wilson, birthday, Church*

Church Support

OCTOBER 6, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$13,346.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$9,457.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly surplus	<u>\$2597.00</u>

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

Readings for Week of October 14

Mon.	Rom 1:1-7	Lk 11:29-32
Tues.	Rom 1:16-25	Lk 11:37-41
Wed	Rom 2:1-11	Lk 11:42-46
Thurs.	Rom 3:21-30	Lk 11:47-54
Fri.	Tm 4:10-17b	Lk 10:1-9
Sat.	Rom 4:13, 16-18	Lk 12:8-12
Sun	Ex 17:8-13	Lk 18:1-8