

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

It has been a long time in coming but it is finally here. The new protective storm windows are here. There will be plenty of activity with all the work being done around the church. We will need to be able to adjust around all the activity. This is particularly important in the case of any funerals that may occur during the installation. The people who are doing the installation are aware of this kind of activity in churches and know how to adjust to such happenings.

One of those events taking place in our church that week is our annual celebration of Catholic Schools. The Catholic schools that usually send their students to Bishop Rosecrans High School (New Lex St. Rose; Somerset Holy Trinity; and Cambridge St. Benedict) will be here on Thursday, October 24th, for the celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Brennan. This will be the first time our students will have a chance to meet Bishop Brennan and for him to visit and tour our schools. It is inspiring to see our church filled to the rafters with all the students of our area Catholic Schools.

Aware that October is Respect Life Month, we pray for a greater respect for the God given gift of life. It is important for us to continue to recall inspirational writings and talks that address this important issue. We usually have a tendency of reading something on the topic and don't often go back and reread or listen to these writings and talks. However, when we do, we have an opportunity to see with greater clarity and a deeper understanding.

One such talk worthy of looking at often was given by Mother Teresa of Calcutta at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. in 1994. Saint Teresa spoke on several Life Issues. Two reflections she offered had to do with the love for elderly and love for the unborn.

She related a time when she visited a nursing home in the United States. Her reflection... *"I can never forget the experience I had in visiting a home where they kept all these old parents of sons and daughters who had just put them into an institution and, maybe, forgotten them. I say that in the home these old people had everything: good food, comfortable place, television – everything. But everyone was looking toward the door. And I did not see a single one with a smile on his face."*

"I turned to Sister and I asked, 'Why do these people, who have every comfort here – why are they all looking toward the door? Why are they not smiling?' (I am so used to seeing the smiles on our people, even the dying one's smile.) And Sister said, 'This is the way it is, nearly every day. They are expecting that a son or daughter will come visit them.'"

"See, this neglect to love brings spiritual poverty. Maybe in our family we have someone who is feeling lonely, who is feeling sick, who is feeling worried. Are we willing to give until it hurts, in order to be with our families? Or do we put our own interests first?"

Over the years visiting nursing homes I find this to be true. There is one thing that I am grateful for here at St. Nicholas is the number of extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion who attend to those who are in our nursing homes. I am sure that all of them can attest to this observation of St. Teresa. Their dedication in love is a great source of comfort and joy for all our parishioners who are in our continuous healthcare facilities and homebound. Their ministry expresses the point made by St.

Teresa, the active virtue of love. They will also agree that this is a great source for spiritual wealth.

Speaking on the very topic about spiritual poverty in the lives of individuals as well as a country that experiences great physical wealth, St. Teresa addresses a very basic point about abortion and the respect for the life of the unborn. Mother Teresa said... *"How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love. The father of that child, whoever he is, must also give until it hurts. By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems. And by abortion, the father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world."*

"Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching the people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. Therefore, the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion."

Mother St. Teresa's keen eye on the issue goes to the very root: there is the lack of love and the desire to grow in the virtue of love. This is a matter of spiritual poverty. This connection between spiritual poverty and the lack of love is the lack of the presence of Love itself: God. From the First Letter of St. John we know that "God is Love". Simply put, if God is not in our lives, we are spiritually impoverished. If we are spiritually impoverished, then we are unable to truly love. Sure, people will argue that they love, and that God is not an important part of their lives. In reality they are only kidding themselves. Without God we are incapable of loving in a more perfect manner. We need to remember that *grace builds on nature, elevates it and brings it to perfection.* We are unable to love others in the most profound way: self-sacrificing love. We are given the perfect example of Love: Jesus Christ. We are sustained by the gift of the Father and the Son...the Holy Spirit.

One of the current agendas in our society is the elimination of God in the public square. More to the point is an attack on Christianity. This points to the growing spiritual poverty in our society. We live in a country that has been blessed with so many goods and comforts that we are not accustomed to making sacrifices. Love in a sinful world implies that we make sacrifices. Mother Teresa points out that the wealthy find it particularly difficult to make sacrifices.

Our Christian faith also tells us; according to St. Paul, that left to ourselves we are incapable of any good work. We need the grace of God in order to do any good work. This is particularly true for the sacrifices we make as an expression of our love: for God and for neighbor. Thus, in a secular (graceless) society we find love to be the most difficult of work. In a world that seeks comfort we are not accustomed to sacrifice. This is particularly evident in the way our society thinks about and treats our elderly and the unborn. For many people they are thought to be an inconvenience. It is a burden to extend oneself out of love to attend to them and their potentially open-ended needs. This is particularly the case when a child is not conceived in love but rather in an act of selfishness and lust. That in itself is spiritual poverty.

Again, we are blessed to live in a country with wealth and many comforts. It is all too easy to be lulled into complacency and indifference when it comes to living the virtue of love. Love is usually measured to *what I want to give.* Instead Love is dependent on *what the other needs.* In fact, pressed further, it is also difficult to practice the virtues of faith and hope.

During this Right to Life month we need to take inventory of our lives and to reconcile the times we have failed in

the theological virtues of faith, hope and love, the greatest of these is love.

Have a blessed week
Father Ralko

Church Support

OCTOBER 13, 2019

OFFERTORY	\$8,506.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$4,617.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly surplus	\$(2,243.00)

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:
Rita A. Greiner*

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.

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.



“MONTH OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY”

Please join St. Nicholas parishioners before each Mass during the month of October to pray the Rosary. 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.

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.

The Women's Spirituality Group will meet **Monday, October 28**, at the parish office at 3:30 p.m. Please enter through the courtyard door. If you have any questions, please call Judi Peterson at 740-453-5288.

Much gratitude to the Daughters of Isabella Circle #586 Fidelis Regina for hosting such a wonderful reception for the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. Our hearts are deeply grateful for the many expressions of kindness and gratitude from all who attended. God bless each one of you. (From the 4 Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity)

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).

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>

All First Communion students and their parents are reminded to attend the meeting on **Tuesday, October 29th at 7:00 p.m.** in the parish office meeting room, upper level.

Cemetery Visit and Bonfire at Mt. Olive Cemetery

All are invited to join us on **Sunday, November 3rd at 5:00 p.m.** as we remember those who have died. Our time together will include an opportunity for private grave visitation and prayer. We will then gather around the fire for the recitation of the names of the parishioners who have died within the past year followed by the Rosary. The evening will end with a wiener roast. The parish will provide hotdogs and buns, condiments, hot chocolate, apple cider and water. Please bring your rosary (if you don't have one, no worries we will have extra) lawn chairs, roasting sticks, flashlights, and whatever additional snacks you would like i.e. chips, marshmallows, smores supplies, etc.

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.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Members of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary will host their annual style show and tea on **Thursday, November 7** in the Army gym, 515 Putnam Ave. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. for silent auction preview followed by a noon luncheon and a style show 1:00 p.m. Proceeds are used to purchase over 600 coats annually for Muskingum County school children Kindergarten through high school. To reserve a seat, mail a check for \$28 to Beth Archer at 1140 Ellen Dr., Zanesville. You do not need to fill out a reservation slip.

The 2019 Bishop Rosecrans Holiday Bazaar will be held **Saturday, December 7** from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at the high school We are still accepting vendors for this event. To be a vendor please contact Holly Marsh 740-408-2705, Melissa Wilson 740-260-2519 or email holidaybazaarbrhs@gmail.com

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

October 27, 2019

30th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 26 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy
Lectors: Tom J. Pitcock, Adelaide Pitcock
Servers: Mason Harmon, Charles Peterson
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Dottie Durant
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Paula Peterson, Scott Peterson
Eucharistic Ministers: Laurie Harmon, Kolby Knox, Danielle Knox, Don Susa

Sunday, October 27 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Janet Moses
Lector: Bill Sullivan, Susan Thompson
Servers: Ajay Paynter, Logan Pratt
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Dan Sylvester
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Cheryl Sylvester, Joshua Wright
Eucharistic Ministers: John Haswell, Angie Hustey, Jeff Hustey, Kevin Jones

Sunday, October 27 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette Selinsky
Lectors: Stephanie Bridwell, Sam Palleschi
Servers: Nicholas Bernath, Justin Ewart
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Paul Ritchey
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Tim Hoffer, Molly Ritchey
Eucharistic Ministers: Diana Dunn, Karen Hardman, Larry Taylor, Claire 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 21

8:00 a.m., Mass: Lois Shiplett, Church

TUESDAY, October 22, St. John Paul II, pope

8:00 a.m., Mass: Cecil Mary Soller, Church
9:30 p.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office

WEDNESDAY, October 23, St. John of Capistrano, priest

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Dorothy Walker, Church
7:00 p.m., R.C.I.A., Parish Office

THURSDAY, October 24, St. Anthony Mary Claret, bishop

10:30 a.m., All School Mass: Emma Barry, Church

FRIDAY, October 25

8:00 a.m., Mass: Genevieve Buker, Church

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, October 26

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: Agnes Jalbrzikowski, Church

SUNDAY, October 27

8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church
9:15 a.m., Religious Education, Bishop Fenwick School
10:45 a.m., Mass: Chuck Durant, Sr., birthday, Church
Mass: Thomas Paul, anniversary, Church

Readings for Week of October 21

Mon.	Rom 4:20-25	Lk 12:13-21
Tues.	Rom 5:12,	Lk 12:35-38
	15b, 17-19,	
	20b-21	
Wed	Rom 6:12-18	Lk 12:39-48
Thurs.	Rom 6:19-23	Lk 12:49-53
Fri.	Rom 7:18-25a	Lk 12:54-59
Sat.	Rom 8:1-11	Lk 13:1-9
Sun	Sir 35:12-14,	Lk 18:9-14
	16-18	

Bishop Rosecrans Athletic Boosters

It's time again to purchase your Booster Mania tickets for the upcoming year. \$25 each or three tickets for \$60, January 1 is the first drawing. Tickets make a good gift. Questions contact Marvin Paul at 740-819-3429.

RECENT BOOSTER MANIA WINNERS

\$25 Winners: Margaret Paul, Mark Dosch, Joe Johnston, Vonda Moyer, Dr. Jessi Middaugh, George Potts, John Gilchrist, Karen Lyon, Jerry Burnett, Fr. Ralko, \$50 Winners: Carolyn Arnold, Cathy McDaniel, \$100 Winner: Marvin Paul