

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

As you probably know by now Murphy's Law is alive and well. It is a law that simply states that... *If something can go wrong, it will go wrong.* Ironically Murphy was an optimist. This law has many axioms and sub theories. A good example is something that we all experience like if two cars are traveling toward each other on a narrow road, they will meet at the narrowest point. We can come up with so many examples and I have many of my own. When the storm windows are scheduled to be installed, inclement weather will occur, and the project will not be able to start on time. Thus, we wait another week for the crew charged with the installation to arrive. The scheduled date (I dare to make known) is tomorrow; November 11. We will believe it when we see the trucks and crew on the premises. I am crossing fingers!

Our passage from today's Gospel starts with the words... *"Some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, came forward..."* It is a kind of a humorous thing that a group presents an argument pertaining to something that they deny. It is not a premise about why they do not believe in the resurrection, it is an argument concerning something that they deny (or do not understand). It is a flawed argument from the very beginning. Once a respondent accepts and engages with such a starting point the discussion goes off to *hypothetical* land. (Notice, Jesus did not answer the question or the situation they presented.) Arguing and debating over hypotheticals just leads to confusion.

A similar tactic is easily employed in moral discussions: especially in the life-issues. Like in today's Gospel the *hypothetical* worst-case scenario is presented with the expectation of the respondent to accept the premise and argue over hypotheticals and not the issue. It's a flawed argument from the beginning. The beginning of the argument for the Gospel was non-belief in the resurrection then demanding an answer about the hypotheticals. Now when it comes to the moral discussion about the beginning of human life, many individuals express non-belief about the humanity of the newly conceived life: they do not believe that the moment of conception a new and unique human life has begun. There is a non-belief in the humanity of the fertilized egg. This non-belief of the humanity of the fertilized egg is followed by arguments about hypothetical situations, i.e. *"What do you say about children who are not wanted?" "What do you say about children born to a single mother who lives in poverty?" "What about a woman's reproductive rights?" "What if the unborn child has severe handicaps?"* These arguments, like the argument presented by the Sadducees are intended to make the respondent to answer the hypothetical situations and thus to look foolish, insensitive and cruel.

We see the same style of arguing about other life issues. Some deny the sacredness of human life. We speak of a human being created in the *"image and likeness"* of God. This is what we believe as our starting point. We do not need hypothetical situations to form an argument. Those who deny the sacredness of human life engage in arguments not about the sacredness of human life, but situations (again, usually hypothetical worst-case scenarios) which may occur. *"What about a person with a long-term illness with no hope for a cure or survival? Can they request physician assisted-suicide?"* The discussion is not about the sacredness of human life, but about hypothetical situations. It is as if a hypothetical worst-case scenario overrides the principle of the sacredness of human life. Life is filled with good and bad

scenarios but that does not change the sacredness of human life. An attempt to discuss life-issues with someone who denies the first principle about the sacredness of human life, a life that can never be terminated at will, will go nowhere. The starting points are worlds apart. When that happens, the hypothetical situations become the argument.

There are certain primary principles that form the very foundation for our thinking on these matters. We trust these principles. Human beings are created in the *"image and likeness"* of God, therefore human life is sacred and must be treated and respected accordingly. God is the creator of all life. Thus, all life belongs to God. God is the author of all life. As the author of life, God also defines and gives meaning to life. Our life is given to us as a gift from God. Life is ours in the sense that we receive this gift and in gratitude we are to be good stewards of this precious gift. Nevertheless, our life belongs to God. At the very beginning there must be an absolute principle that we believe and to which we must follow.

God is first. Everything else flows forth from God. This is clearly seen in the Scriptures; in Genesis and particularly in the Ten Commandments. The first of the Ten Commandments is very basic and absolute: *"I am the Lord your God."* This is the very first principle on which all the other commandments rest. If there is no God, then the rest of the commandments are not absolute. If we were to deny God... then there are all kinds of possibilities for *false*, gods. Thus, we can have all kinds of gods of our own making. (We need to live by some basic principle and that would be according to our own will.) There would be no need to respect the Lord's name, or to observe the Lord's Day. If I deny God, then the rest of the commandments do not carry the weight of being absolute. The commandments that deal with others become subjective: they vary in observance according my will and convenience or to situations etc.

The first commandment is absolute. God is God and I am not. It is God who gives moral "weight" to His commandments. It is God who gives meaning to His Commandments. We cannot "adjust" them to accommodate our lives. There is a great temptation to be like Adam and Eve who negated the absoluteness of God's command. *"So, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her and he ate."* Gen 3:6. The human situation negated the command of God. The Fruit looked good, delightful and desirous (who could argue with that?). The command of God was reduced from absolute because human beings thought otherwise. The law does not apply to me because my situation is unique: the law interferes with my personal experience and wants.

The Sadducees denied that there is a resurrection. Their discussion as they framed it was headed to *hypothetical* land as well as revealing a misunderstanding about the resurrection. In a very narrow sense, we cannot blame them since Jesus' death and resurrection had not happened. They also assumed that the resurrection had to be a continuation of this life in some manner. Then the same rules applied after death as they did before. But to the point; the denial of the resurrection rendered any further discussion futile. Adam and Eve's doubting and denying the absoluteness of God's command, as it was framed for them (note well the devil's hypothetical argument), lead them to futility. Denial of God leads us to futility and chaos.

God and His commandments (His Word) lead us to life. The Word of God, incarnate in the person of Jesus, gives us life. Trusting in God and receiving His Word (Jesus Christ) is Life.

Respect for Life is founded in God. God is the source of all life. God gives meaning to life. Just as we cannot give ourselves life, we cannot give ourselves meaning. We need to discover this truth as well as discover the meaning of life. God will reveal that to us as we seek to know. God is God; we are not. We respect life as an act of faith in the author of life: God. Even when we do not understand or have all kinds of excuses, situations and "what ifs" we must always give life its proper respect out of our faith in God, our love for God and our hope in God.

Have a Great Week.
Father Ralko

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

We pray for those who have died recently:
Albert J. Crook

Join us for breakfast! Zanesville Catholic Teens hosts breakfast, **Sunday, November 10th** following all the Masses. All are invited.

2019 ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH BAZAAR

We will be open to parishioners after ALL masses this Sunday. Thank you to all who donated in any way. Questions? Call Mary at 740-607-6386. God bless.

The next ministry schedule begins **December 1st**. All Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Servers, and Lectors should submit their Mass requests no later than **November 15th**.

ALL FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE REMINDED TO ATTEND THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH** AT 12:00 p.m. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT.

A Letter to A Suffering Church – Bishop Barron's second video is now available on the St. Nicholas webpage. The web page can be found at www.stnickparish.org.



The Daughters of Isabella seek to promote the welfare of the community in accordance with the teachings and rules of the Catholic Church through unity, friendship and charity.

All women age 16 and up are welcome to join us. The next meeting is **Tuesday, November 12** at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Parish Office.

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



**The Parish Office will be closed
Monday, November 11 in
observance of Veterans Day.**

GRIEF MINISTRY

Grief by definition is deep sorrow caused by loss. Grief can appear as sadness, pain, it can even make us physically ill. Meetings are held at 1:00 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office Meeting Room. **The first meeting is Thursday, November 14th.** The topic will be "Who are You Grieving For?" Perhaps you have lost someone or know someone who is grieving and would like to learn how to help them. Please join us. The program is free and open to all.

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.

OCTOBER BOOSTER MANIA WINNERS

\$25- Marvin Paul, Sharon Barnes, Cole Jaquith, Marianne Michel, David & Lynda Sutton, Pauline Davis, Gwyneth Paul & Linda Greives. \$50- Roger Hogue, \$100- Katie Zemba

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

Church of the Ascension, 555 S Main St, Johnstown, OH 43031 will host the Men of The East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with Reflection on **Thursday, November 14th** at 7:00 p.m. 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

BOYS BASKETBALL FUNDRAISER

For the past 28 years, the Bishops Rosecrans boys' basketball team, along with the cheerleaders and girls' basketball team have provided "Christmas On the Hill" for children in need. On **November 30th** the basketball team will have a drive-up in front of Rosecrans High School where you can pick up TATS pizza and salads between 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Order forms are available at RHS, Bishop Fenwick and the parish office and are due by **November 26**. If you have any questions call Todd Rock at (740) 408-1475.

St. Nicholas Choir

Do you like to sing? Have you thought about joining the St. Nicholas choir but don't know how to go about it? It's easy! Just come to a rehearsal and we will find a spot for you. There are no auditions and no prior musical training is needed - just a desire to sing and be part of a group that strives to bring people closer to God through music during the celebration of the Mass. The choir sings approximately once a month at the Saturday 5:15 Mass, for Christmas, Holy Week and Easter, other special feast days, (e.g. Christ the King, etc.) First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses. Rehearsals are usually on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and those dates will be printed in the bulletin. We welcome high school students to the choir also. If you have questions, please email director Kevin Rahrig at rahrig@gmail.com.

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word." 2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-17

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PICK UP THEIR COPY OF THE 2020 WORKBOOK WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE EUCHARISTIC CHAPEL BEGINNING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

November 17, 2019

33rd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Saturday, November 16 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette Selinsky
Lectors: Tom J. Pitcock, Adelaide Pitcock
Servers: Justin Ewart, Mason Harmon
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Mike Musselman
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Kolby Knox, Jim McKee
Eucharistic Ministers: Dottie Durant, Judy Hamilton, Danielle Knox, Margaret Kronenbitter

Sunday, November 17 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Sandy Black
Lector: Rocky Rowe, Susan Thompson
Servers: Logan Pratt, Libby Pratt
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Jim Pottmeyer
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Philip Kocoloski, Susan Pratt
Eucharistic Ministers: Peggy Hill, Jim Hillis, Sue Hillis, Dodi Sealock

Sunday, November 17 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Laura DeCoy
Lectors: Stephanie Bridwell, Wendy Hart
Servers: Nathan Hart, Justin Hart
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Karen Hardman
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Carolyn Arnold, Kevin McCarthy
Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Mirgon, Molly Ritchey, Paul Ritchey, Erin Roush

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 the St. Nicholas Parish Office Chapel 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, November 11, St. Martin of Tours

8:00 a.m., Mass: Florence Schoeppner, Church
2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office

TUESDAY, November 12, St. Josaphat

8:00 a.m., Mass: Patrick Lyon, Church
9:30 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office
7:00 p.m., R.C.I.A., Parish Office

WEDNESDAY, November 13, St. Frances

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Linda Brown, Church
6:00 p.m., D of I Meeting, parish office

THURSDAY, November 14

NO MASS
1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Greif Support Meeting, parish office

FRIDAY, November 15, St. Albert the Great

8:00 a.m., Mass: Shirley Knox, Church

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, November 16, St. Margaret of Scotland

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: L/D Members of the Floss & Sullivan Families, Church

SUNDAY, November 17

8:15 a.m., Mass: Jerry Davis, birthday, Church
Helen Mercer Palmer Osborne, Church
9:15 a.m., Religious Education, Bishop Fenwick School
10:45 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church

Readings for Week of November 11

Mon.	Wis 1:1-7	Lk 17:1-6
Tues.	Wis 2:23-3:9	Lk 17:7-10
Wed	Wis 6:1-11	Lk 17:11-19
Thurs.	Wis 7:22b-8:1	Lk 17:20-25
Fri.	Wis 13:1-9	Lk 17:26-37
Sat.	Wis 18:14-16;	Lk 18:1-8
	19:6-9	
Sun	Mai 3:19-20a	Lk 21:5-19

Church Support

NOVEMBER 3, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$14,762.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$10,873.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly surplus	<u>\$4,013.00</u>

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word.” 2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-17