

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

As I sit here in my study to write this column Bovard Studios has just arrived. The window project has officially begun! They pulled into the parking lot with all their equipment for the job at hand. Now all we need to do is pray for favorable weather. Again, Murphy's Law applies here: When you need favorable weather for this project the opposite will happen!

This Sunday we celebrate the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. For today and next Sunday we will finish our continuous reading from the Gospel of St. Luke. Next Sunday we will be concluding the liturgical year with the Feast of Christ the King.

For this Sunday our first reading is from the prophet Malachi who lived about 470 years before Christ. Many Jews at that time were apathetic about their religious duties and negligent in keeping the Commandments. He strenuously warns his listeners that the day of reward and punishment is coming. To illustrate his point, he uses fire as the symbol for judgement; separating good and evil. Fire is a symbol representing both the reward and the punishment. The fire will be scorching heat for those who have not followed God's ways. Fire will bring warmth and healing to those who have been faithful. Just the same, the apathy toward religious duties and the negligence in observing the Commandments is something that is constant for many people throughout human history. Our sense of justice tells us that at a certain point there needs to be a day of reckoning: a day of justice because God loves us in truth and justice.

The image of fire is helpful for us. Fire is a good thing created by God. The fire that purifies is often seen negatively as a punishment: i.e. hell. But that is looking at it from our fallen point of view. We say something is good or bad according to how it affects us. However, fire is a symbol of God's burning love for us. Out of great love for us fire is to be seen as a means to purify our lives. Impurities are separated from that which is of value. A wonderful image for this is found in the book of Wisdom. "*As gold in the furnace he proved them.*" For the one who places a high value on gold its purity is important. It must be put in the furnace in order to be purified. Our lives are imperfect. It is the love of God that purifies our lives. The greater amount of impurity, the greater the fear of the burning love of God. For those who need little purification, the fire of God's love is welcomed as necessary, warm and healing.

This purifying love happens throughout our lives. Every time we experience a challenge to grow in virtue; to be more loving, faithful, forgiving, truthful... they are all moments of being in the furnace. These are purifying moments. It is by practicing virtue, especially when we find it difficult; it is then that we grow in virtue. In reference to the prophet Malachi, overcoming apathy in religious practices and following the commandments are moments of being in the fire of the furnace that purify our lives. We find the furnace particularly painful when we are far from God by not following his ways and most especially when we do not want to follow God's ways and commandments. Resistance to God eventually becomes painful. It is experienced as punishment. It is not seen as an opportunity to grow in the grace of God. It is not seen as an opportunity to grow in our faithful loving relationship with God. Without a genuinely good relationship with God we will not find hope beyond the difficulties of this life. People steeped in sin do not find hope in this life.

This idea is particularly important when we look to the Gospel passage for this Sunday. In this gospel we find verses detailing events or signs preceding the end-times. These signs indicate the time of reckoning has arrived. The signs are frightful and ominous: wars and insurrections with nations rising up against nations: despair. For those who are overly attached to the things of this world will find this frightful and a cause for despair.

As we read further, before the fall of worldly things the challenge is personal. "*They will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name.*" This is the fire or the furnace that clarifies what we truly value, or more to the point, the principles upon which we stand. The very things that are most important are going to be challenged. If the most important part of life happens to be the priority of worldly things the coming end-times will be a time of despair. If our focus is our faithful relationship with God and living in God's ways as the foundation of our lives; we will endure these trials in faith. The corrupt world starts to implode as it were, and people will be filled with fear over all of this. It is a natural human reaction. It is also a time for a thoughtful response: our response of faith in God. This world will pass away. We have heard this numerous times. Our concern is to be prepared for this as we keep our faith in God in mind and heart. That which is eternal is our life (soul). This needs to be our concern.

During all our personal trials that we will experience, we need to pay attention to the words of Jesus. "*It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.*" The wisdom and testimony that Jesus will provide comes from an unswerving relationship with the Lord. It is not a pithy "come-back" that refutes any particular challenge; rather it is a wisdom that flows forth from a relationship of faith and love. This wisdom slowly develops in a relationship with God in prayer and reflection. It is true that when it comes to the challenges to one's faith, if one does not have a relationship with the Lord one will be lost as to how to respond to any challenge. Often people think they need knowledge in order to argue the faith, but in reality, one needs the wisdom that comes from a faithful relationship in order to give witness or testimony. Wisdom comes from prayerful reflection in the midst of a faithful loving relationship with the Lord. Besides, in a loving relationship with the Lord we are confident that the Lord would never leave his beloved to face their perils alone.

As we bring this liturgical year to a close considering the end times, we are also looking forward to a new year, a new beginning. It is the cycle of life. Thus, we reflectively consider our relationship with our Blessed Lord and pray for the grace to continue to grow in the most important virtues that lead us to the fullness of life; Faith, Hope and Love. In the end these are the very virtues that really matter. They are eternal. They cannot be refuted.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

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

Church Support

St. Nicholas Choir

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

OFFERTORY	\$12,304.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$8,415.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly surplus	\$1,555.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

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. 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 rahrigk@gmail.com.

The Women's Spirituality Group will meet **Monday, November 25**, 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.

ALL FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE REMINDED TO ATTEND THE MEETING ON SUNDAY, **NOVEMBER 17TH** AT 12:00 P.M. 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.

PRE JORDAN

Pre Jordan will be held on **Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Office Building. The meeting is for parents, and godparents of infants and small children to be baptized. Please call Patty Boggs at 453- 0597 to register for the class.

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.

HOLIDAY Bazaar

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

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.

THE GIVING TREE

Every Advent we place a Giving Tree in the Church vestibule. It contains paper ornaments with gift items to be purchased for needy families. This year we will be giving the gifts to the Muskingum Valley Clinic for children, Heartbeats, Transitions, and our own homebound St. Nicholas Parishioners. Please pick an ornament, buy the requested item, wrap and securely fasten the ornament tag to the package. All packages must be returned to the church by **December 15th**. You are always so generous, and we thank you for helping others this holiday.



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF ADVENT MUSIC AND PRAYER

On **Sunday, December 1 at 5:00 p.m.**, the Parish Choir of St. Thomas Aquinas will once again present a special service of Advent Lessons and Carols. The service is sung by choirs of many denominations and finds its home in the English collegiate and cathedral traditions. If you did not attend last year, please consider making this service part of your preparation for Christmas - it can be a welcome moment of prayerful rest in the busy weeks of Advent. A reception will follow.

BLANKET DRIVE



Everyone loves a warm blanket on a cold night. The Good Samaritan Nurses Alumni are collecting clean blankets, new or gently used. We do this as a memorial to our nurses who have passed away. The collection will start on **December 1** and end on **December 31**. Place the blankets in the box provided in the lobby at Genesis. Blankets are given to Eastside Community Ministries for their clients. If you need more information call Carol Kohler 740-453-9123. Thank you.

The K of C Club Room will be open on **Saturday, November 30** from 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. for all to enjoy watching the Ohio State vs Michigan football game. Come out early, stay late and share the fun with your fellow Knights and friends.

"Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you might imitate us." 2 THESSALONIANS

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PICK UP THEIR COPY OF THE 2020 WORKBOOK WHICH ARE AVAILABLE IN THE EUCHARISTIC CHAPEL.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

November 24, 2019

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Saturday, November 23 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Jim Gable
Lectors: Mike LaPlante, Nancy Susa
Servers: Rex Hankinson, Charles Peterson
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Alan Burns
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Vicki Burns, Dan Snider
Eucharistic Ministers: Paula Peterson, Scott Peterson,
Karen Robinson, Don Susa

Sunday, November 24 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Ryan Teti
Lector: Bernard Budde, Bill Sullivan
Servers: David Eppley, Ajay Paynter
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Marvin Paul
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Suzie Altier, Bill Altier
Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Haswell, John Haswell,
Cheryl Sylvester, Joshua Wright

Sunday, November 24 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette Selinsky
Lectors: Sam Palleschi, Othello Repuyan
Servers: Thomas Bernath, Will Bernath
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Karen Hardman
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Jon Calendine,
Gerald Tiberio
Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Calendine, Tim Hoffer, Larry Taylor,
Claire Tiberio

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 28 @ 8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Laura Decoy
Lectors: Diane Hoffer
Servers: Justin Ewart, Mason Harmon
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Diana Dunn
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Laurie Harmon,
Danielle Knox
Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Bernett, Kolby Knox,
Mike Musselman, Jim Pottmeyer

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.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, November 18, The Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul

8:00 a.m., Mass: Glenn Sidwell, anniversary, Church
2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office

TUESDAY, November 19

8:00 a.m., Mass: Carol Pryor, Church
9:30 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office

WEDNESDAY, November 20

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

THURSDAY, November 21, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

NO MASS

FRIDAY, November 22, St. Cecilia

8:00 a.m., Mass: Cecil Mary Soller, Church

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

SATURDAY, November 23, St. Clement

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

SUNDAY, November 24

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

Readings for Week of November 18

Mon.	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63	Lk 18:35-43
Tues.	2 Mc 6:18-31	Lk 19:1-10
Wed	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31	Lk 19:11-28
Thurs.	1 Mc 2:15-29	Lk 19:41-44
Fri.	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59	Lk 19:45-48
Sat.	1 Mc 6:1-13	Lk 20:27-40
Sun	2 Sm 5:1-3	Lk 23:35-43

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.