

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King and begin the last week of the Liturgical Year (C). Next Sunday we begin a new Liturgical Year (cycle A) with the celebration of the First Sunday of Advent. This yearly cycle of a three-year cycle starts with the joyful expectation of the coming of our Savior and culminates with the Feast of Christ the King. The whole cycle orbits around the center of our lives: Jesus Christ. The Feast of Christ the King proclaims that we are citizens of the Kingdom of God and Christ is our Lord and King. Christ our Lord and King governs and guides our lives with our best interests at heart (Salvation). He does this by revealing his Love and faithfulness to all humanity. Our response to his kingship is our renewal of allegiance and devotion to Christ our King. Jesus Christ claims our first loyalty. We are citizens of the Kingdom of God where *Christ's love, faithfulness and peace reigns* in our hearts now and in its fullness at the end of time.

This Thursday we also observe **Thanksgiving Day**. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. I believe there is also a morning mass at St. Thomas at 9:00 a.m. At our Thanksgiving mass we will be taking up a *food collection for Eastside Ministries*. This is something that we have faithfully practiced over the years. It is particularly noted that our parish is generous in helping the poor in our area and in our support of local agencies who handle the distribution of goods and services. Baskets will be available in the lobby of the church for your food donations.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day we are reminded once again of our need to be thankful. Joyful hearts are thankful hearts; and thankful hearts are joyful hearts. Our joy is founded in Christ who is always in our midst. The expression of thanksgiving is something we do every day when we celebrate the Eucharist. The word "*Eucharist*" literally means "*Thanksgiving*". The celebration of the Eucharist is Christ's gift to us as his abiding presence in our midst. For his abiding presence we are abundantly thankful. Thus, the first and most important expression we can offer to God in prayer is praise and thanksgiving. Praise and Thanksgiving is a priority. Unfortunately, it can be something we can easily overlook.

When pressed for a quick response we are aware that we are thankful for so many things in general in our lives and about the blessings we enjoy in our great country. We are indeed blessed in so many ways. However, we need to press deeper into thankfulness in a more personal way. For example, we ought to be thankful for our God-given gift of life, the love and mercy of God that sustains us in this life, as well as all the events and people that have brought us to this point in our lives. We should be deeply thankful for those who have inspired us in our Catholic Christian faith. And ironically, we should be thankful for all those challenging and difficult events that have made us better persons: moments when it was the grace of God that sustained us, and we had grown in holiness.

Our remembrance of those low points reminds us that they are truly moments of grace which, if we are open to the work of grace, have brought us to a deeper and more substantial faith. There are so many events and people who have influenced us, challenged us and helped us grow in so many ways: emotionally, physically, spiritually and so forth. Reflections in this manner involve an added investment of our time for greater reflection and thankful prayer.

Having a thankful mind and heart requires us to look back. In other words, our thankfulness is connected to memory; our history.

I had stopped by the Senior Religion class at Bishop Rosecrans one day. They were taking up a section on Church History. I was asked a question: "Why do we need to study Church History?" My knee jerk response was... "Those who don't know history are condemned to repeat it." I followed that up with (under my breath) the words of Henry Ford; "History is bunk". That response was what I would have started with when I was in high school. With the passage of time we become wiser, I hope. Nevertheless, ever since that short encounter I have given further thought and hopefully a greater insight.

When it comes to history, most elementary and high school students subtly think that history began the day they were born. That which had happened before that blessed day does not really matter. What matters is what has happened in my life. I suppose this is much of the reason that they are not interested in what has happened before the day they were born. Granted, there is a curiosity about all that influences them like the family tree, but when it comes to general history, much less Church history, there tends to be less of an interest.

One important value in studying Church history is to appreciate the highs and lows in our two-thousand-year history. Presently we have encountered a serious crisis in the Church in recent history. In our study of Church history, we come to know that there were numerous times when the Church went through serious crises. We come to learn how the Church survived such crises *by the grace of God*. We learn about the faith that endured such crises. With an overview, we see that it is precisely during such times that the Church did not fall but has grown in greater faith. We also note that some of the greatest saints were at the center of the crises whose holiness and sacrifice helped to correct the course of the life of the Church. They did so by their imitation of Jesus Christ: taking up their cross every day and following him all the way to Calvary. Their great personal cost inspires us in the faith.

If anything, studying Church history is a good occasion for our students, and any student of history to grow in Christian faith. Our Faith is based on what has been revealed in time. We believe in what has been revealed in the past tense. We believe in what we know; that which has been revealed to us. The act of faith is made in the present moment. Our hope is directed to the future. Getting back to the point, our faith is based on what was revealed long before we were born. This is the historical aspect. I think one element of the crisis of faith in a relativistic world is the notion that history does not matter. In ignoring our history, we are not able to be nourished from this wellspring of knowledge and faith. Without this wellspring we do not handle crises well. In the face of a crisis there is the temptation to believe that this has never happened before; that this is the worst; this is the end: despair. Fortunately, our history tells us differently. "Those who do not know history are condemned to repeat it."

The history of the Church is filled with so many interesting events, great individuals as well as some pretty seedy persons. It's all part of the fabric of the Church. Throughout our history we have been blessed with lives of the inspiring saints, the thoughts and writings of great spiritual masters, and the heroic witness of faithful followers of Jesus Christ. We can gain great insights from our history and come to appreciate that we are part of a great and holy heritage; something greater than the narrowness of our lives in history. We are members of the Body

of Christ: The Church.

If anything, we should be thankful for our place in the Church. We are surrounded by a great company of saints and martyrs, faithful disciples and spiritual guides. We have been provided with everything we need for our salvation. We learn what works and what does not work. And when all is said and done, we have Jesus Christ and his gift of the Church and her sacraments. We often take this for granted. Thus, we pause, recall, refocus and give thanks for the gift of the Church.

Have a great week and a joyful Thanksgiving Day.

Father Ralko

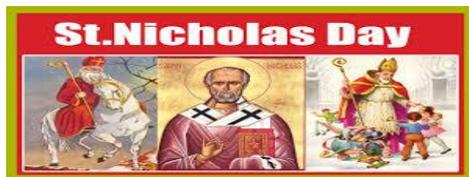
This week we pray Week II of the Liturgy of the hours.

We pray for those who have died recently:

Daniel L. Rapol

Church Support

NOVEMBER 17, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$11,792.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$7,903.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly surplus	\$1,043.00
May God bless you for supporting your parish!	



The December Parish Dinner to be held on Saturday, December 7th following the 5:15 p.m. Mass will be in honor of our Patron Saint, St. Nicholas, featuring traditional German foods. All are invited!

Friday, December 6th is the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas was the bishop of Myra in Turkey in the 4th Century. He is remembered for being kind and generous to the poor, to children and to those unjustly imprisoned. Legends tell that St. Nicholas gave anonymously; he did not seek praise but wanted good things to be done and the hearts of children to be delighted.

All are invited to join us for breakfast Sunday, December 8th following the 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Masses.

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

Happy Thanksgiving from Fr. Ralko and the Parish Staff

The Parish Office will be closed **Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd**. We wish everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving. Please join us for Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday at 8:00 a.m. We will be collecting food for Eastside Ministries. Baskets will be in the back of the church for your donation.

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.

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.

POINSETTIA DELIVERY

We need people to deliver poinsettias to our nursing home residents and homebound parishioners. If you are able to do so please go to Florafino’s Flower Market on **December 5, 6, 7 or 8**. They will give you the delivery address(es). Any help will be appreciated.

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 **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.

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.



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.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Attention All Liturgical Ministers, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Servers

All liturgical ministers are asked to pick up the new schedule this weekend. If you have any questions concerning the schedule, please call Patty Boggs at 740- 453-0597.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

December 1, 2019 1st Sunday of Advent

Saturday, November 30 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Ryan Teti
Lectors: Keena Hansel, Sylvia Norris
Servers: Libby Pratt, Logan Pratt
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Bill Altier
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Dottie Durant, Margaret Kronenbitter
Eucharistic Ministers: Suzie Altier, Judy Hamilton, Jim McKee, Susan Pratt

Sunday, December 1 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Kerby Staker
Lector: Jim Gable, Maggie Wright
Servers: Caiden Hogue, J. D. Wilson
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Sue Hillis
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: John Haswell, Theresa Hogue
Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Bernett, Jim Hillis, Cheryl Sylvester, Dan Sylvester

Sunday, December 1 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Laura DeCoy
Lectors: Wendy Hart, Patti Logan
Servers: Nathan Hart, Justin Hart
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Erin Roush
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Carolyn Arnold, Mike Musselman
Eucharistic Ministers: Sandy Black, Kevin Jones, Kevin McCarthy, 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.

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 25, St. Catherine of Alexandria

8:00 a.m., Mass: Marie A. Nestor, Church
2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office
3:30 p.m., Women's Spirituality Group, Parish Office

TUESDAY, November 26

8:00 a.m., Mass: Ed and Millie Swierz, Church
9:30 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office
7:00 p.m., Pre-Jordan Baptismal Class, Parish Office

WEDNESDAY, November 27

8:00 a.m., Mass: Cletus Schoeppner, anniversary, Church

THURSDAY, November 28, Thanksgiving Day

8:00 a.m., Mass: Clarence Bronkar, Church
Parish Office Closed

FRIDAY, November 29

8:00 a.m., Mass: Ray Andrews, Church
Parish Office Closed

1st Sunday of Advent

SATURDAY, November 30, St. Andrew

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: Jean James, Church

SUNDAY, December 1

8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church
NO CLASS, Religious Education, Bishop Fenwick School
10:45 a.m., Mass: Brian Sullivan, birthday, Church
12:00 p.m., R.C.I.A., Church

Readings for Week of November 25

Mon.	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20	Lk 21:1-4
Tues.	Dn 2:31-45	Lk 21:5-11
Wed	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28	Lk 21:12-19
Thurs.	Dn 6:12-28	Lk 21:20-28
Fri.	Dn 7:2-14	Lk 21:29-33
Sat.	Rom 10:9-18	Mt 4:18-22
Sun	Is 2:1-5	Mt 24:37-44

