

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Today is the Feast of Epiphany. The word Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "manifestation." This feast celebrates the manifestation of our Lord as King and Savior to all the nations as represented by the acknowledgment of the Newborn King of the Jews by the Magi, or the three Kings. As they come from foreign countries, the pagan lands if you will, they acknowledge the Child Jesus as the newborn King of the Jews. As Jesus is acknowledged by these foreign kings, their gesture of homage is significant of acceptance of Jesus Christ as the Universal King by all peoples in all places and in all times. As the three Magi followed a light, they found the True Light, the source of light, a person, who enlightens all people with a light that dispels all darkness.

The Light of Truth is an important theological theme. This true light comes from above. Christ is our Light; he illuminates our world so that we may see as he would have us see. He is the Truth and this Truth is illuminating our lives. In regards for those outside the Christian faith there is the Christian belief that anyone who sincerely seeks Truth is in reality seeking God. Coupled with this theme we begin every New Year with a call for *all people of good will* to pray for peace in the world. The foundation for genuine peace can be found in Truth and Justice. In one of our Christmas Carols we sing that our newborn King comes to "*rule the world in truth and grace*". It is in Truth and Grace (God's abiding presence: love) that genuine peace for our world is possible. From the view of our Christian faith we are confident that this peace can be found. The Church is constantly in open to dialogue with people of good will to come together to seek the truth. We are confident that truth, inspired by grace which precedes all good work, is the key to peace in our world. It is the work of God. We all seek peace. But there is no true peace without Truth. Jesus is the Truth and the Truth will set us free. All in all, it is a search for God and Christ our Light will illuminate our way.

This past week we celebrated the coming of the New Year: 2020. As always when this time of year comes, we spend a little time looking over the past year. I put together some information about the parish for 2019... We celebrated 16 Baptisms last year. This is down from last year. Just the same with great joy we welcomed infants, children and adults into our Catholic Christian Community. We see in our children hope for our future. Our children are our future. We thank God for his blessings, especially the blessings of new life and new members in the Body of Christ. Prayerfully we will continue to grow as a community of faith.

This past year we have also celebrated 24 First Communion and 16 Confirmations. Some of those who joined us in the Eucharist for the first time and were confirmed were part of the RCIA class who received these Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. We also welcomed 3 individuals into the Catholic Church by a Profession of Faith, Confirmation and Eucharist. Again, God continues to bless our parish family.

This past year we celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony as we witnessed the exchange of marriage vows on 3 occasions. Again, this number is down from last year. We are always pleased when we can celebrate the establishment of the covenant love of marriage.

Over the past year we had had 43 deaths and funeral services. Although these occasions present themselves as sad

moments in our lives, we continue to face them and all our difficulties with faith. We have a strong conviction in the eternal life promised to us in Jesus Christ. We are people of Faith and we are continually reminded of the Salvation our Blessed Lord has won for us in his own Passion, Death and Resurrection. We have faith in our Lord, especially in these sad occasions of loss and grief. These are the times when we believe we have the greatest claim on the love and mercy of God. We continually pray for our deceased brothers and sisters that they may come to the fullness of life and peace in the Kingdom of Heaven. We also pray for those who grieve the loss of their loved ones. As we are united with them in Christ Jesus our Lord, we most especially find our communion with them in the Eucharist.

Over the last couple of months, we have been "under construction" as we have engaged in our window project. This has been an expensive project of which we have been saving and planning for a few years. Along with our Capital Improvement Fund, a couple of grants from the Catholic Foundation and the Cora Rogge Fund and last-minute contributions, we have been able to afford this great undertaking. We are glad that we have been able to take on this necessary work. The protective windows look great. The cleaned stain-glassed windows, the removal of the deteriorated plexi-glass coverings have brightened the stained-glass windows revealing wonderful details often overlooked. Our beautiful windows are not only noticeable from inside but more importantly from outside the church. We have received many compliments.

Considering other projects; we need to attend to the roofing between the church and the rectory. The roof on the breezeway that connects the rectory and church has greatly deteriorated and needed to be repaired. This is one of those things that doesn't get noticed even while it is being used. Repairs were being made after Christmas.

Sidewalks remain a concern. We have some estimates on some work to be done. This particular problem has many things attached to it: one repair leads to another or a repair is contingent on another factor i.e. street elevations and curbs. The one major lingering problem is Main Street with its potholes and when the city will resurface the street. There are numerous layers of asphalt with a brick foundation. It is not feasible for them to put another layer upon that which is already there which would cause water to flow over the sidewalks and against the building. We do have wall damage in the basement along the Main Street side. My guess is that it is water not draining down the street but getting under the sidewalk and infiltrating the basement wall. All in all, it is a constant problem. It's not easy having and maintaining sidewalks and flat cement surfaces on the side of a hill: there will always be shifting and sliding causing cracks and gaps. Our facilities require continued attention and maintenance.

Lastly, this is a good time to extend a big Thank You to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas Season. Again, our church looked beautiful for the Holy Days. In fact, everything for the celebration of Christmas was great. The 5:00 Christmas Eve mass was packed per usual. We had over six-hundred in attendance. The 10:00 p.m. mass and the 9:00 a.m. mass were very well attended. I would say the church was full and comfortable. The music and singing were wonderful, especially for the 5:00 p.m. mass with the choir. This year's Giving Tree was a great success. The continued generosity of so many who participated with their gifts is always inspiring. A big thank you goes out to those who invested their time in coordinating this effort. The Giving Tree is a great blessing to all involved: for

those who received the benefices of so many and for those involved in providing for the needs of others. We are indeed a richly blessed parish community.

May God bless you with Peace, Joy and Good Health now and throughout the New Year.

Fr. Ralko

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

Church Support

December 22, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$7,780.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$3,891.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly surplus	<u>(2,969.00)</u>

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

All are invited to join us for breakfast Sunday, January 12th following the 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Masses.

Give Yourself the Gift of Time with Jesus and Your Sisters in Christ!

Give yourself the gift of the **Columbus Catholic Women's Conference** on Sat., Feb. 15, 2020 at the Ohio Expo Center. Come to pray, learn and rest with your sisters in Christ from around the diocese. Register now for early bird pricing at www.columbuscatholicwomen.com. Don't miss this day of amazing grace! A bus will be leaving St. Nicholas Church Parking Lot at 6:15 a.m. on February 15th. Call the (740) 453-0597, ext. 14 to reserve your seat. The bus has been sponsored and is free. However, you must purchase your ticket.

CALLING ALL MEN!!!! Attend the Catholic Men's Conference on February 22, 2020 at the Columbus Expo Center – Kasich Hall. Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. The event begins at 8:00 a.m. Join 3,500 men at the **2020 Men of God Conference** to hear from some of the most dynamic speakers around the country. Speakers include Bishop Robert Brennan, Jason Evert Founder of the Global Ministry, "Chastity Project" and Head Football Coach at University of Cincinnati, Luke Fickell. Contact Mike Musselman for more information (740) 452-9806, or 297-0154, or register online at CatholicMensMinistry.com. Transportation Assistance Available!

January is Poverty Awareness Month. More than 40 million Americans live in poverty. Encounter, Learn, Act. For resources about what Catholics can do to address poverty in the United States, visit USCCB's Poverty USA website at www.povertyusa.org.

Desire to spend time with Christ every day? The Church is open for private prayer and adoration of Christ in the Tabernacle; weekdays, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. until noon and Saturdays from noon until after the 5:15 p.m. Mass.



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, December 10** at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Parish Office.

Do not be afraid! The angels proclaimed this message to the world on the eve of Christ's birth. This Christmas Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity sincerely pray for those who may be troubled and afraid, but also all who are so good to us. We invite young women (age 20-32) to respond to the call to be a Franciscan Sister with us. The world needs you. God calls you. We invite you. Find out more <https://fscclalledtobe.org> or call or text Sister Laura at 920-973-0337.

Grief by definition is deep sorrow caused by loss. Grief can appear as sadness, pain, it can even make us physically ill. Grief can be indescribable. The St. Nicholas Grief Support Program provides monthly meetings which are offered twice in one day to afford the maximum number of participants. Meetings are held at 1:00 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office Meeting Room. **Join us on Thursday, January 9th. This month's topic: Keeping It Together While You Grieve.** All are welcome.

We have made the book Letter to a Suffering Church: A Bishop Speaks on the Sexual Abuse Crisis by Bishop Robert Barron available for free. Please pick up your copy today. Please share this important information with friends and family. Bishop Barron also recorded a series of videos that correspond with the book. The videos can be found on our website: stnickparish.org.

Respect Life Mass is Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street, Columbus. Bishop Robert J. Brennan will serve as main celebrant. On this day of the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision, our diocese will join all dioceses of the United States in observing a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. All are invited. For more information contact, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org or 614-241-2540.

Roe Remembrance at the Ohio Statehouse. Greater Columbus Right to Life will sponsor this event on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, noon to 1:00 p.m., at the Ohio Statehouse following the 10:30 a.m. Respect Life Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral. The program will be held in the Statehouse Atrium. Please allow extra time for Statehouse security measures. Stickers, signs, and weapons are not permitted inside. For additional information, visit www.gctrl.org/roe.html.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

January 12, 2020 The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, January 11 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Ryan Teti

Lectors: Tom J. Pitcock, Adelaide Pitcock

Servers: Logan Pratt, Libby Pratt

Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Alan Burns

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Laurie Harmon, Susan Pratt

Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Burnett, Vicki Burns, Mike

Musselman, Karen Robinson

Sunday, January 12 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette Selinsky

Lector: Patty Logan, Bill Sullivan

Servers: David Eppley, Caiden Hogue

Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Joshua Wright

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Dan Sylvester, Ashley Jones

Eucharistic Ministers: Jim Hillis, Sue Hillis, Theresa Hogue,

Marvin Paul

Sunday, January 12 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy

Lectors: Stephanie Bridwell, Sam Palleschi

Servers: Nicholas Bernath, Thomas Bernath

Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Tim Hoffer

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Gerald Tiberio,

Claire Tiberio

Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Arnold, Mary Mirgon, Jim

Pottmeyer, 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.

Praying the Rosary will resume in the St. Nicholas Parish Office Chapel at 2:00 p.m. sometime in February. The exact date will be published in the bulletin.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, January 6

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

TUESDAY, January 7

8:00 a.m., Mass: Eileen Gaab, Church

9:30 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office

WEDNESDAY, January 8

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Pauline Archer, Church

7:00 p.m., R.C.I.A., Parish Office

THURSDAY, January 9

NO MASS

FRIDAY, January 10

8:00 a.m., Mass: Paula Fargus, anniversary, Church

The Baptism of the Lord

SATURDAY, January 11

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church

5:15 p.m., Mass: Charles E. Rock, anniversary, Church

SUNDAY, January 12

8:15 a.m., Mass: Donald Sigrist, birthday, Church

9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m., Religious Education, Bishop Fenwick

10:45 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church

Readings for Week of January 6

Mon.	1 Jn 3:22-4:6	Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tues.	1 Jn 4:7-10	Mk 6:34-44
Wed	1 Jn 4:11-18	Mk 6:45-52
Thurs.	1 Jn 4:19-5:4	Lk 4:14-22a
Fri.	1 Jn 5:5-13	Lk 5:12-16
Sat.	1 Jn 5:14-21	Jn 3:22-30
Sun	Is 42:1-4, 6-7	Mt 3:13-17

