

# 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Today is the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time and we find ourselves in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of St. Matthew. As I have mentioned before, the Sermon on the Mount covers chapters 5 through 7 in Matthew. It is a long teaching; however, it is not a random throwing together of various teachings by Jesus. Following the Beatitudes there is a structure to these three chapters. Scripture Scholars see a parallel here with the Jewish belief that the foundation of the world rests on three pillars. There is a firm foundation for the Jewish way of life. We are to see stability in the number 3. A practical example is a simple table or stool. A stable table or stool rests on three legs. Notice that if a table or a stool has only one or two legs it will not stand much less be stable. Even a four-legged table or stool will at times wobble if one of the legs is longer or shorter. This happens every time when going to a restaurant and sitting at a table or chair that wobbles. Having three legs is naturally stable and strong.

The three pillars (legs) of the Jewish view for the foundation of the world stand on the Torah, Temple Service and Works of loving kindness. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus teaches just as Moses teaches as he presents the Ten Commandments. Jesus is the New Moses: the new lawgiver. After teaching the Beatitudes Jesus goes on to say... "You have heard it said, but I say..." Jesus is teaching with a new authority from the heart/spirit of the Law: the Torah. Jesus does not put aside the Commandments, he plunges his followers deeper into the Law.

Jesus then begins to speak about true worship; the second pillar. An example of this is what we see in today's Gospel reading. Jesus teaches from the Torah and says, "*Thou shall not kill*". He integrates this with an example for worship. "*If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift*". There is a connection with the commandments of killing, adultery and false witness that speaks to the purity of heart. It is the purity of heart that makes an offering (prayer) authentic and sincere. Jesus highlights the one thing that the Jewish Religion introduced into human history: Moral behavior and worship of God are intimately linked. No other religion ever connected these two elements of moral behavior and worship. Jesus highlights this and adds to it by emphasizing the disposition of the heart, the spirit underlying the observance of the Law and Worship. It is the spirit of love.

Jesus wants to address the spirit of the law over mere observance. I once heard a great example of this. Think about it. A married couple faithfully observed the Ten Commandments in their marriage. "*Our marriage is wonderful. We don't steal from each other, lie to each other, cheat on each other or even have killed each other.*" Would that make an ideal marriage? What makes a marriage ideal goes beyond the mere observance of the commandments; it is the spirit behind the commandments. Their love for each other empowers and motivates the couple to grow in greater goodness for the sake of each other. And so, it is with our relationship with God. The spirit of the law, love, is our motive for our moral behavior and our worship of God.

The third pillar is the work of loving kindness. If moral behavior is intimately connected to genuine worship of God, Jesus has us take it a step further. Instead of merely avoiding evil, Jesus

insists in our doing good things for others. This makes the heart grow in goodness and enriches one's worship of God. This pillar finds its expression in the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." It reflects a mind and heart focused on God.

It is also good to note that at the very center of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus teaches us about prayer and gives us the "Our Father". The "Our Father" is at the center of Jesus' teaching on prayer. This prayer also appears in a larger context at the center of Jesus' teaching on the three elements of piety: almsgiving, prayer and fasting. These are the three pious activities that form our works of loving kindness. We are to do for others and pray for them as we make a sacrifice for this to happen. We are to practice self-denial in the sacrifice of time for prayer and the sharing of our treasure for the benefit of another: works of loving kindness. This all forms the heart for observance of the law and for true worship.

The Our Father is at the center of the Sermon on the Mount. God, whom Jesus calls "Father", is at the center of everything. God has created all things. God has called a people to be his own: God's Chosen People. The People of God, the Israelites, are to be different from all other peoples. In their difference they are to be a "*Light to the Nations,*" and "*Salt of the Earth.*" In their observance of God's Law, their worship and good deeds reveal the "*Glory of God*" to all the nations.

Jesus highlights this and takes us deeper into this mystery. In praying the "Our Father" we acknowledge the greatness of God who is totally other. Yet in saying "Father" we also acknowledge that God is intimately involved in our lives.

Upon deeper reflection we realize that the "Our Father" embraces all aspects of the Sermon on the Mount since it touches upon all three pillars. It is the foundation of our lives.

Making the Sermon on the Mount personal, we are all called to know, love and serve God in this world that we may be happy with him in the next. God has given us the means to do this. God has given us the law and we are to trust His Word. We are to have thankful hearts for all that God has given us. We do this in our faithful and loving worship. As faithful followers, as brothers and sisters, we are to share what we have received with those who are with us and are in need. This leads us into community.

We call the worship of God the "Mass" or "The Eucharistic Celebration". It is a prayer of thanksgiving. We need to gather together in thankful loving worship. If we do not focus on being thankful, we will slowly not be grateful. We come to Mass, acknowledge our sinfulness, receive the forgiving mercy of God and we are thankful. We listen to God's word and are nourished by his word and we are thankful. We offer our gifts; which God receives and returns to us as the gift of himself: The Body and Blood of Christ and we are thankful. We then go forth to bring the presence of Christ to the world: being "Salt and Light." If we do not gather weekly, we put ourselves in danger of not being thankful to God: Eucharistic.

Being followers of Jesus Christ gives the Chosen People of God greater expression. The fulfillment and greatest expression are found in Jesus Christ. We are to live in imitation of him. Thus, we are to trust the Law of God and live it. God does not call us to sinfulness. We are to worship God with pure and loving hearts. We have a penitential prayer as we gather and the Sacrament of Reconciliation to help us. And we are to live the goodness of God in service to our brothers and sisters. This is the foundation for a good Christian life. It sounds simple, but the

reality is that it is not always easy. Thus, we humbly do so with the grace of God.

Have a great week.  
Father Ralko

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 IN OBSERVANCE OF  
PRESIDENTS' DAY.**

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

**Church Support**

February 9, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$6,561.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$2,672.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly deficit	\$(4,188.00)

**May God bless you for supporting your parish!**

**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN**

Kevin Dooley will hold a **Protecting God's Children** class on **Monday, February 24 at 6:00 p.m.** The class will be held at the St. Nicholas Parish office, lower level. This class is mandatory for those who would like to volunteer in any capacity at Bishop Fenwick School, Bishop Rosecrans High School or St. Nicholas Parish. Please register in advance at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

**CALLING ALL MEN! Attend the Catholic Men's Conference on February 22** at the Columbus Expo Center – Kasich Hall. Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. The event begins at 8:00 a.m. 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 452-9806 or 297-0154 or register online at CatholicMensMinistry.com. We will be sharing a bus with St. Thomas for the Men's Conference this Year. The bus leaves from St. Thomas at 6:15 a.m. Please contact Rob Rodgers at 453-3301 for more information. We just recently confirmed that men from the 12 parishes that make up the Men of the East will have reserved seating at this year's conference. All men attending should check the seating chart as you enter the conference hall or ask an usher to direct you to the "Men of the East" section.

**LOOKING FOR A GIFT?!** - We have a collection of beautiful handcrafted rosaries and bracelets donated to the church for the benefit of the window project. The value of the rosary's ranges from \$20.00 to more than \$300.00 (Swarovski crystals). Bracelets start at \$10.00. They will be available for purchase at the parish office. Great gifts for First Communion, Confirmation, Anniversaries, etc.

**College Students**

Once again, we will be sending care packages to students away at college. Please call the parish office with your student's name and address, and we will send them a care package. Your student stayed in town? Great, give us their mailing address, we have gifts for them too! Please submit names and address by no later than Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> to ensure delivery before Lent begins. If you are interested in helping with this project, please call the parish office.

**Bosco Bash**, the Diocese of Columbus' Middle School Youth Rally, for grades 6th-8th. It's Saturday, **March 7** at Bishop Hartley. All youth from the Diocese are strongly encouraged to participate. Catholic youth may bring their non-Catholic friends to this gathering. The event includes high energy activities geared towards middle schoolers, dinner and Sunday Mass. The bus leaves from Bishop Rosecrans parking lot at 12:30 p.m. returns approximately 9:30 p.m. All students of appropriate age from all schools are invited. Register online at <https://columbuscatholic.org/bosco-bash>. \$30 per person. Parents are invited. **Registration must be submitted by noon, Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.** For more information please call the parish office.

**The Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC)** the official Catholic conference of the Diocese of Columbus for grades 9th-12<sup>th</sup> is **Sunday, March 8** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. All high school aged youth from the Diocese are strongly encouraged to participate. Catholic youth may bring their non-Catholic friends to this gathering. The gathering includes keynote speakers and workshops geared towards high school students, lunch, and Sunday Mass. \$30 per participant. **For more information, please call the parish office.**

**The Women's Spirituality Group** will meet Monday, February 24 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.

**Fast and Pray**

Fasting helps deepen our relationship with Christ because we use this time to overcome any tendencies detrimental to our spiritual well-being, such as racism, gluttony, pride, and acts of violence. We allow ourselves to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, who suffered, died, and rose again to free us from sin and death. Fasting can transform us in such a way we are truly living the Gospel. Together, let's use this time to walk with our Lord through Sacred Scripture and be a living witness to the Gospel. See Pope Francis' fasting tips at <https://columbuscatholic.org/resources-3>. Please also visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) for additional resources.

*"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven."*  
**MATTHEW 5:20**

# 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

### February 23, 2020 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Saturday, February 22 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Jim Gable  
Lectors: Diane Hoffer, Scott Peterson  
Servers: Rex Hankinson, Charles Peterson  
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Margaret Kronenbitter  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Charlotte Snider, Dan Snider  
Eucharistic Ministers: Paula Peterson

#### Sunday, February 23 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Sandy Black  
Lector: Patti Logan, Maggie Wright  
Servers: Ajay Paynter, J. D. Wilson  
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Jim Pottmeyer  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Peggy Hill, Susan Swackhammer  
Eucharistic Ministers: Phillip Kocoloski

#### Sunday, February 23 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Laura DeCoy  
Lectors: Stephanie Bridwell, Sam Palleschi  
Servers: Will Bernath, Nathan Hustey  
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Mary Mirgon  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Carolyn Arnold, Kevin McCarthy  
Eucharistic Ministers: Angie Hustey

### February 26, 2020 Ash Wednesday

#### Wednesday, February 26 @ 7:00 p.m.

Cantor: Janet Moses  
Lectors: Keena Hansel, Mike LaPlante  
Servers: David Eppley, Justin Ewart  
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Tim Hoffer  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Sandy Black, Mary Mirgon  
Eucharistic Ministers: 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 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, February 17, The Seven Founders of the Servite Order

8:00 a.m., Mass: Mary Jo Dooley, Church

### TUESDAY, February 18

8:00 a.m., Mass: John A. Rock, Birthday, Church  
9:30 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office

### WEDNESDAY, February 19

8:10 a.m., Mass: Madison Paul, Birthday, Church  
6:15 p.m., Rosary, Parish Chapel  
7:00 p.m., R.C.I.A., Parish Office

### THURSDAY, February 20

NO MASS

### FRIDAY, February 21, St. Peter Damian

8:00 a.m., Mass: Walter Freiermuth, Church

### 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### SATURDAY, February 22, The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

2:30 p.m., Wedding: Josh Haswell & Wendy Myers, Church  
4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church  
5:15 p.m., Mass: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Sullivan, Church

### SUNDAY, February 23

8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church  
9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m., Religious Education, Bishop Fenwick  
10:45 a.m., Mass: Richard W. Brown, Church

### Readings for Week of February 17

Mon. . . . .	Jas 1:1-11	Mk 8:11-13
Tues. . . . .	Jas 1:12-18	Mk 8:14-21
Wed . . . . .	Jas 1:19-27	Mk 8:22-26
Thurs. . . . .	Jas 2:1-9	Mk 8:27-33
Fri. . . . .	Jas 2:14-24,	Mk 8:34-9:1
	26	
Sat. . . . .	1 Pt 5:1-4	Mt 16:13-19
Sun . . . . .	Lv 19:1-2,	Mt 5:38-48
	17-18	

#### INCOME TAX

If you would like to have a record of your donations to the Church for tax purposes, please fill in your envelope number, name and address or email and place it in the collection basket. A statement will be sent to you.

Envelope No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ or

Email address \_\_\_\_\_