

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

There was some alarming news that we received on Ash Wednesday. From what I understand St. Thomas Aquinas Church in dealing with a leaky roof problem discovered that there were severe cracks in the roof beams. The discovery of the cracks was believed to be so serious that they were advised to evacuate the church immediately. This decision to suspend all activities in the church building was heartbreaking for the parish staff and the good people of St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Hopefully there will be a positive and viable resolution to this difficult situation. St. Thomas Aquinas Church is very beautiful with a great history. We will keep them in our thoughts and prayers. We will also do whatever we can to assist our Catholic brothers and sisters during this difficult time. It is my suspicion that this present situation will have long term consequences and difficult adjustments that will have to be made. Again, we will offer any kind of help to them through this crisis.

There are so many things that can be learned from such events. Time will provide further lessons and insights. Presently, we must accept the fact that nothing in this world lasts forever. Things decay corrode and breakdown: it's a hard fact of life. It is painful to hear this in the middle of such a crisis. Just the same we must be mindful on our part that we also have an old church building. Yes, we must keep an eye on the structure and maintain what we have. The laws of nature are true and relentless.

During these days there will be a lot of second guessing, finger pointing and the proverbial "would of/should have" which tend to be not very helpful at the present. Such speculations however do give us an insight into the workings of the human mind. For instance, it really doesn't matter what we think and speculate about now, when it comes to the forces of nature, we must accept the fact that we can't control them. With all kinds of positive and wishful thinking it is a little foolish to believe such things could or should ever happen despite our thinking otherwise. We must humbly accept the fact that nature does not cooperate with us, we must cooperate with nature. Only then are we able to sensibly and safely live in this world.

Considering the workings of the human mind; some people thought that one of the greatest philosophical insights of all time came from Rene Descartes. His famous line "*cogito ergo sum*" (I think therefore I am) was thought to be the definitive proof for existence: at least personal existence. The very fact that I think is proof that I exist. However, this little saying has done more damage to human thinking and has been the source of great tragedies. It is true that I can say that I think therefore I exist. But it is not the whole truth. In fact, I existed long before I thought about it. Because of this fact it is erroneous to necessarily attach existence to cognition (thinking). It is also true that we often hear someone say, especially when they have been caught having done something foolish, "*I wasn't thinking.*" This is partially true because foolish things do happen before we think. However, that does not mean that during that time of "*not thinking*" that that person or foolish activities did not exist? Sure, they exist but their existence does not necessarily depend on our thinking.

Furthermore, we get into greater trouble when it comes to the area of poor decision making that leads to immorality of the harm of others. Take for example someone behind the wheel of a car. This person impressed with their car start to race around town pretending that he/she is in a NASCAR race. Suddenly there is a serious accident. The person says that he/she didn't

think they would have an accident and therefore they should not have had an accident. How often do we hear such comments...? "*I didn't think that would happen*"? This implies the following unspoken words... "therefore *it shouldn't have happened.*"

There is also a manifestation of this kind of thinking behind some of the sinful behavior in our lives. How often do we hear or even say... "*I didn't think/believe it was a sin*". This is followed by the unspoken words... "*Therefore, it shouldn't be a sin.*" The existence of sin in my life depends on whether I think it is or isn't a sin.

This is exactly what we heard in the first reading from the First Sunday of Lent from the Book of Genesis: The "Fall of Adam and Eve." Adam and Eve did not listen to the Word of God but instead listened to the lie of the serpent. They believed the word of the serpent that in taking the fruit from "tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil" that they would be like God and would be able to personally/individually decide what is good and evil. They would be able to decide and determine the nature of things. "*I think it therefore this is what it is!*" They would say "*It is what I think it is.*" Thus, we hear the deception of the devil telling Adam and Eve that they would be *like God*: God's equal. The nature of good and evil is no longer determined by the Creator who is good and true. Suddenly good and evil are determined by what Adam and Eve think and say. This is the birth of relativism. This is a characteristic that is found in all humanity; we believe or think that we determine the nature of things; most especially what is good and evil. This is a great temptation. This thinking has devastating effects when we consider broader secular thinking about marriage, human sexuality, abortion, end of life issues, cloning, stem cell research... in fact even morality in general. We think the nature of these things is decided by what we think and say they are.

Respecting and cooperating with the laws of nature points us in the direction of respecting and cooperating with the Word of God. Respect and cooperation with the Word of God motivates and gives deeper meaning in our respect and cooperation with His creation and the laws He has put into nature. It all has one source: God. Existence finds its origin in God and not in us or our thinking. God is the author of all creation and he is the one who writes his law into all things. We did not create ourselves. We are not God. It's a simple lesson that we ought to learn and humbly accept. We can say these are the facts of life.

Therefore, we say that truth is discovered. In our thinking we discover truth, we do not create it. This thinking takes time and a posture of humility before the magnificence and the depth of all creation. When humbly being open to creation is slowly reveals it nature and the laws that govern its existence. It is not what we want it to be, but it is what it reveals itself to be. This is also true for morality. It is not what we say it is but good and evil reveal themselves for what they are by their very nature. Suggestion; contemplate the good.

Nevertheless, when it comes to our own facilities you know that we have an extra envelope in our monthly packet for the Capital Improvement Fund. This fund is intended to support our ongoing maintenance and improvements. Please be mindful of this fund. The fund has been depleted as you know because of our window project. The completion of the dome windows will be happening in the near very future: expectedly by Easter. Once that is done, we also have other concerns on the horizon.

In the meantime, we are called upon to pray for the good people at St. Thomas Aquinas. They are heartbroken and suffering at this time. Our prayerful support is important.

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

Church Support



Lenten Fish Fries at Knights of Columbus Council 505

Knights of Columbus Council 505 at 275 Sunrise Center will have Fish Fries during lent every Friday throughout Lent, except Good Friday. Meals will be served from 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** After enjoying a delicious fish dinner at the K of C, join us for Stations of the Cross at St. Nicholas. Retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary Fridays of Lent at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

LENTEN GREETING CARD PROJECT

Seasonal cards are sent throughout the year to all Catholics living in area nursing homes and to homebound parishioners. Birthday cards are sent to all senior parishioners. This year's we need cards for Easter (with a religious message), summer and fall, Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Volunteers will add appropriate greetings to blank cards. A basket has been placed in the church vestibule for your donations. Monetary donations may be placed in an envelope identified for Lenten Greeting Card Project and placed in the collection basket. Thank you for helping to keep those who cannot join us at Mass feel connected to our parish community. If a member of your family is homebound and you have not notified the parish office, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the project, please call Rosalyn Headington at 740-454-0274.

Grief Support - 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. The next meeting is **Thursday, March 12**. Please join us at 1:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. at the Parish Office. No registration is required.

Josephinum Seminary to host Spring "Live-In" Weekend: The Pontifical College Josephinum (www.pcj.edu) will host a spring live-in weekend from **4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 26, through noon Saturday, March 28**, for young men of high-school and college age, along with men who already have their undergraduate degrees who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood. The live-in weekend is designed for participants to discuss and experience various aspects of seminary life – prayer and spirituality, academic classes, liturgies and communal life – and to speak with formation faculty, seminarians, and staff. Discussions on human, spiritual, and pastoral dimensions of seminary formation are part of the live-in experience. There is no cost associated with the live-in experience, however registration is required. For more information please contact Father Michael Lumpe, Vice-Rector, at mlumpe@pcj.edu, or Arminda Crawford at acrawford@pcj.edu; both can also be reached by calling the Josephinum at 614-885-5585. The Pontifical College Josephinum is located at 7625 North High Street, Columbus, 43235.

BRHS Shimmer of the Night Auction and Dinner ~ Saturday, April 4, 2020

Cocktails and Silent Auction Begin at 6:00 p.m. Dinner served at 7:00 p.m. and Grand Auction at 8:00 p.m. RSVP by March 20 to 740.452-7504 or www.catholicschoolsofzanesville.org Individual tickets \$50, Couple \$100, Corporate \$550. Sponsorship and donation opportunities available ~ contact Ashley Moyer 740.704-1585 or ashlev@ashlevmover.com

March 1, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$13,489.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$9,600.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly deficit	\$2,740.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

Join us for Breakfast – Sunday, March 8th following the 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 p.m. Masses. In the Church Social Hall (basement). All are welcome. Donations are accepted for support of our youth ministry program.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Saturday, March 14th following the 5:15 p.m. Mass. Join us for Reubens, mashed potatoes & gravy and cookies for dessert. All are welcome! Donations are accepted for the support of future dinners.



The Daughters of Isabella will meet on **Tuesday, March 10** at 6:00 p.m. at the Parish Office. They will have a speaker from the Naomi House in Duncan Falls. Naomi House is a shelter for women who recently gave birth to addicted babies and are trying to get their life back on track. Please join us.



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

St. Nicholas Catholic Church will host the Men of The East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with Reflection on **Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m.** All men of our parish are invited and encouraged to participate in these once a month Holy Hour's. For more information about Men of The East contact Mike Musselman at 452-9806.

RECENT BOOSTER MANIA WINNERS

\$75-Sue Durant, \$25- Paul Hoffman, Mark Dosch, Jeff Shawger, Mark Moyer, John Biedenbach and Sherry Dinan

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

March 15, 2020
3rd Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 14 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Ryan Teti
Lectors: Mike LaPlante, Sylvia Norris
Servers: Justin Ewart, Charles Peterson
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Scott Peterson
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Margaret Kronenbitter,
Jim Pottmeyer
Eucharistic Ministers: Dodi Sealock

Sunday, March 15 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Laura DeCoy
Lector: Peggy Hill, Sue Hillis
Servers: Libby Pratt, Luke Pratt
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Tim Hoffer
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Philip Kocoloski,
Susan Pratt
Eucharistic Ministers: Jim Hillis

Sunday, March 15 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Kerby Staker
Lectors: Keena Hansel, Othello Reputan
Servers: Thomas Bernath, Will Bernath
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Jennifer Bernett
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Claire Tiberio,
Gerald Tiberio
Eucharistic Ministers: Jocelyn Connell

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 March. The exact date will be published in the bulletin.

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.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, March 9, St. Frances of Rome

8:00 a.m., Mass: Clarence Hupp, birthday, Church

TUESDAY, March 10, Purim

8:00 a.m., Mass: 82nd Airborne in Afghanistan, Church
9:30 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office

WEDNESDAY, March 11

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Langdon Thomas, Church
6:15 p.m., Rosary, Parish Chapel
7:00 p.m., R.C.I.A., Parish Office

THURSDAY, March 12

8:00 a.m., Mass: Doris J. Emmert, Church

FRIDAY, March 13

8:00 a.m., Mass: Morris & Luella Hoffer and Msgr. Dury, Church
7:00 p.m., Stations of the Cross, Church

3rd Sunday of Lent

SATURDAY, March 14

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: Carol Smith, Church

SUNDAY, March 15

8:15 a.m., Mass: Mary Dozer, 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 March 9

Mon.	Dn 9:4b-10	Lk 6:36-38
Tues.	Is 1:10, 16-20	Mt 23:1-12
Wed	Jer 18:18-20	Mt 20:17-28
Thurs.	Jer 17:5-10	Lk 16:19-31
Fri.	Gn 37:3-4, 12- 13a, 17b-28a	Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Sat.	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20	Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sun	Ex 17:3-7	Jn 4:5-42

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 _____