

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

We have returned last weekend and as far as I can tell it went very well. The number in attendance was relatively low for two of the masses but that was just fine. Many of our parishioners did not attend over the weekend with many of them attending the 9:00 morning mass during the week. Like I have said before, the good people of St. Nicholas are using their good sense and are making good decisions. God bless you.

Today we also celebrate the Solemn Feast of the Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us... "*The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian Life. God alone can make it known to us by revealing himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*" (# 261) The Most Holy Trinity is a divinely revealed truth. It carries the weight of a Dogmatic Doctrine. All Christians must believe in the Holy Trinity or one is not truly a Christian.

This teaching is not something that our simple, limited and imperfect minds can come up with. This teaching must be revealed by God. God has gone to great lengths to reveal Himself to us. Creation gives us a glimpse, but it is not enough: note well all the pagan religions throughout history. God has given us Sacred Scripture to help us know Him and to help us form a community of His People. But that is not enough: there is so much more. Finally, God has sent His only Begotten Son to perfectly reveal Himself to us as well as his divine plan. Even that revelation needs more work. Thus, the Holy Spirit is sent to us by the Father and the Son to help us to come to greater understanding and knowledge of God and His divine plan.

God's self-revelation tells us that God is Love. We know that but there needs to be something tangible to reveal and even prove God's Love. Jesus is the tangible love of God. God's love is so great that God wants us to know about how seriously He loves us. The tangible proof is the crucifixion: we put the Son of God to death. God still loves us and reveals His great love by the resurrection and the sending of His Holy Spirit: The Spirit of love and life.

Once we make the leap of faith and accept this divinely revealed truth, it continues to reveal the deeper mystery. We come to greater knowledge of the truth about the inner life of God. We can never exhaust the knowledge we can gain from this infinite mystery. Thus, we call the Holy Trinity a *super-natural* mystery, not to be exhausted but to find continuous insight and consolation for our entire lives. This *super-natural* mystery continually nourishes our intellect and faith: we call it *awe* before God. Some would prefer to understand in order to believe. But the reality is that first we believe in order to understand. As a community of faith, we gather in order to pray and celebrate this Solemn Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity on this Sunday.

During the liturgical year we celebrate various Solemnities that are manifestations of God's loving plan. The Solemnity of the *Most Holy Trinity* is one of those celebrations. With the celebration of the *Most Holy Trinity* we find ourselves celebrating what may appear to the secular world as abstract nonsense. That it has nothing to do with real life. However, in celebrating this mystery we contemplate the inner life of God which is love. We reflect on the truth that we are drawn into this inner life or nature of God. Human beings cannot live without love and this is real life. Without this celebration we would rarely consider this Sacred Mystery on our own. In essence, we cannot

live without love, we cannot live without God and we are invited into the heart of God which is our final destination.

There is a short answer to the inquiry... "*What is the teaching of the Holy Trinity?*" Our response is that we believe there are "three persons in one God: *Father, Son and Holy Spirit*". There are not three Gods! There is only One God within whom there are *three persons*.

The inadequacy of our human language is that we use human categories in a feeble attempt to express an infinite mystery. We use categories to define things, but God cannot be put into a human category. God is not a thing nor is God part of creation. Categories deal with created things. Our language proves to be woefully inadequate. But it is the best we can do.

Firstly, we speak in terms of *Persons*. A *Person* is not a thing. Persons have bodies but the body is not the totality of the person. *Person* is manifested in various ways: in thoughts, feelings, passions, relationships, personality as well as the physical manifestations. The word "*person*" is the better, although inadequate, way to express the three manifestations and relationships within the Godhead. So, we say that within the Godhead we have revealed to us a *Trinity of Persons*. Most notably this is revealed by Jesus himself at the end of the Gospel of St. Matthew. Jesus tells the disciples to go and baptize in the "*Name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*" Jesus reveals the three persons in the one Godhead, and he *Names* them.

We also know that Jesus spoke of the relationship within God by calling God his "*Father.*" He also described this relationship with the "*Father*" as a relationship of *love*. In doing so Jesus reveals two things. One, if the relationship is one of love than it is a *personal* relationship. Love is proper for persons. And two, in calling God his "*Father*" he has revealed that he has a *personal* relationship in that he shares the same nature as God: Divinity. God is a *personal* God who loves and is loved. The love between the Father and the Son is so absolute and personal, it is a *person* itself: The *Holy Spirit*: The Spirit of love. What we have is a God who is a personal God, composed of persons who are united in absolute, perfect love. Unlike other religions, this is unique unto itself. God is *Personal*. That means that all relationships with God are personal relationships. The Judeo/Christian God is a personal God. This is not the case in other religions. In fact, this is a serious heresy for some religions.

However, God is *absolutely other*. God is described as a "Supreme Being", "Absolute Mystery" and far beyond our capacity to fully know. Not in a million years could we wrap our finite limited minds around the infinite eternal God. Thus, we have two mutually exclusive realities coming together. A Transcendent God who is intimately personal.

In the eternal wisdom of God, we have this wonderful coming together, these two extremes, in the mystery of the *Incarnation*. Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, is God and Man. In the incarnation we have in the person of Jesus two natures, Divinity and humanity in perfect communion: the transcendent and the immanent. When we turn to Jesus, we are reminded of the words of St. John Paul II: when we meditate on the face of Jesus... "We see the *human face of God and the Divine face of man.*" The Incarnation reveals the Most Holy Trinity and the Holy Trinity affirms the Incarnation.

"*God so loved the world that He sent his only begotten Son.*" It is in the person of Jesus Christ that God reveals His great intention. God wants us to *know* Him and *love* Him just as Jesus knows and loves the Father. God wants us to know his great, unconditional love for us as it is lived and revealed in Jesus. In

knowing God’s great love for us we are invited to love God as Jesus loved the Father: God. This love for God is inspired by the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. In contemplating this mystery, we come to know the meaning of life: *“To know, love and serve God in this world so that we may be happy with Him in heaven.”* It is all about personal communion with God; from the beginning to the end.

After Jesus’ Death, Resurrection and Ascension, the *Father* and the *Son* sent us the *Holy Spirit*, the Spirit of love: the enduring presence of God in the Church and in the lives of Jesus’ disciples. It is the Holy Spirit that brings us into communion with God and each other. The *Third Person* of the Holy Trinity draws us into this personal relationship with God: a relationship of faithful love. Again, God is personal yet transcendent. The transcendent God wants to be in a personal relationship with humanity.

In our Christian Faith we know *that if* there is no Holy Trinity there is no Incarnation. Without the Incarnation we would never know about the Holy Trinity. Jesus Christ reveals the inner life of the Holy Trinity as life-giving love to which we are invited to share. This is our origin, our living in this world and our final destination in heaven. We are always invited to share in the inner life of God: most notably celebrated in the Sacraments.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, we are to come to a greater awareness of God not only as Divine Mystery but also a personally intimate God. The plan of salvation is found in God and flows from a personal God who invites us to share in His life in this world and perfectly in heaven. God invites us to know, love and serve Him in this life. This is a great joy that God offers us here and now. The more we know God the more we love God; which is a foretaste of eternal life in His loving embrace.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

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



Happy 100th birthday to Grace Raymond!

Church Support

May 31, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$12,693.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$8,804.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly surplus	\$1944.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

St. Nicholas Church has a convenient way to make your regular offerings. With our electronic giving program, you can easily set up a recurring giving schedule. It provides a much-needed consistency for our church. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, our church will continue to receive your contributions on an uninterrupted basis. To become an electronic giver, call or visit the church office for a brief form to fill out.

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confessions are currently by appointment only.

Please do not use the cry room unless absolutely necessary. The room is too small to afford social distancing and should only be used on a very limited basis. Thank you.

With the return to Church, **Baptisms** can now be scheduled. Pre-Jordan classes will be scheduled individually. Please call the office to schedule both Pre-Jordan classes and Baptisms. (740) 453-0597, ext. 14.

During this time when we do not have the **Music Issues** available for use, each Sunday's songs will be posted on the St. Nicholas website for you to download to your phones and sing from your phones during Mass, or even print them off for yourself. These are options to help you participate and praise God in song as fully as possible during these uncertain times.

**BISHOP ROSECRANS HIGH SCHOOL/
BISHOP FENWICK SCHOOL SCRIP PROGRAM**

Gift cards in our SCRIP program at Bishop Rosecrans High School and Bishop Fenwick Schools can still be purchased. As of now, any special SCRIP orders will be ordered on Monday's. SCRIP is still being sold from inventory. If you would like to purchase SCRIP at any time or need information about our program, please email Julie Wagner or call the school office at (740) 452-7504. A time will be arranged for the gift cards to be picked up.

You don't even have to purchase the physical cards!! Go to shopwithscrip.com and set up an account to purchase ecards that will automatically be downloaded to my wallet in your account where the gift cards can be used from your phone or can be printed for future use. If you have already purchased a physical card from our SCRIP program, you can reload the card as many times online and still earn the percentage towards tuition.

The Reverend Dwayne McNew will observe the Silver Jubilee of his priestly ordination on June 24, 2020. Like so many other significant life milestones because of our current circumstances, the planned celebratory gathering is not possible. A card or message of greeting would be especially welcome to remember him on this special anniversary. Your thoughtful kindness will be sure to be appreciated. Thank you. You may send it to Ss. Simon & Jude Catholic Church, 9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson, OH 43162.

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

On the first Sunday after Pentecost, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Josemaria speaks about how each soul in grace is a temple of the Trinity.

And so that we don't forget, amid the ups and downs of life, the joyful destiny that awaits us, the liturgy invites us to celebrate and contemplate, next Sunday, the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity: one God in three Persons, whose definitive possession and enjoyment will bring us the goal of our existence. Let us prepare as well as possible for this solemnity. St. Josemaría, following an ancient custom of the Church, recommended that for three days in the Centers of the Work we pray the *Trisagium Angelicum*, which impels us to participate intimately in the prayer of praise, thanksgiving and glorification that the angels and the blessed souls address incessantly to our triune God. Those of us who had the opportunity of praying it with our Father saw his joy when praising the three divine Persons during the decades of the prayer.

Tibi laus, Tibi Gloria, Tibi gratiarum actio in saecula sempiterna, O Beata Trinitas! We will once again invoke God with these words during this Triduum, directing our prayer to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *To thee the praise, to thee the glory, to thee we give thanks without end, O Most Holy Trinity!* And we will unite ourselves to the song of heaven, while we repeat: *Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus exercituum...* Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

It is very significant that, precisely upon once again beginning ordinary liturgical time, the Church invites us to raise our heart, our voice and our eyes to the Most Holy Trinity. This should be the ambition of all men and women while still here on earth, because we were created to know and love God now and to enjoy him afterwards for all eternity.

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.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, June 8

9:00 a.m., Mass: *F. Paul Nestor, Church*

TUESDAY, June 9, St. Ephrem

9:00 a.m., Mass: *Mike Andrews, Church*

WEDNESDAY, June 10

9:00 a.m., Mass: *Lawrence Soller, Church*

THURSDAY, June 11, St. Barnabas

9:00 a.m., Mass: *Pastor's Intention, Church*

FRIDAY, June 12

9:00 a.m., Mass: *Douglas Walker, Church*

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

SATURDAY, June 13, St. Anthony of Padua

5:15 p.m., Mass: *Gary Cooper, Church*

SUNDAY, June 14

8:15 a.m., Mass: *Donald Sigrist, anniversary, Church*

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

Readings for Week of June 8

Mon.	1 Kgs 17:1-6	Mt 5:1-12
Tues.	1 Kgs 17:7-16	Mt 5:13-16
Wed	1 Kgs 18:20-39	Mt 5:17-19
Thurs.	Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3	Mt 5:20-26
Fri.	1 kgs 19:9a	Mt 5:27-32
Sat.	1 Kgs 19:19-21	Mt 5:33-37
Sun	Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a	Jn 6:51-58

