

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

As you all know by now, we are halfway through the year. It has been interesting to say the least. With Independence Day weekend upon us we would ordinarily be looking toward two events that for the summer: the parish festival and the beginning of the new school year. Let me expand on these two items considering current events.

Firstly, we are trying to make plans. The key word is "trying". Everything seems to be in flux about the spread of Covid-19. The curve of infection has been flattened. But in its flattened state it has spread out over time. The news has been inconsistent, and people do not know what to believe or whether the news being reported is the whole story. We have cause to be concerned. However, with that in mind we are trying to make plans for a parish gathering on August 1st which coincides with our original parish festival weekend. We are planning for a one-day event. However, as you know the governor could close down everything at a moment's notice. The key word in that sentence is "could". Again, this hanging over our heads is causing fear and indecisiveness in our planning. So, with that in mind let me relay some of our plans for August 1st.

Our first consideration was to have food trucks for the day. We thought about having various vendors providing different foods and giving the parish a percentage. Little did we know from the start that the majority of food trucks were booked for graduation parties and celebrations. So, we had to abandon that idea.

A second idea surfaced. We can't have a gathering of parishioners without food. We are working on a deal with Falls Township Volunteer Fire Department to provide a chicken dinner. Most people are familiar with the Falls Township chicken dinners. On Father's Day they sold well over a thousand dinners in a couple hours. That was a big success. So, we are trying to coordinate with them to have a Chicken Dinner here at St. Nicholas. Dinners would be available for take-out if folks would prefer to take them home or obviously, they are available for those who would like to stay and eat with family and friends. We are working on an arrangement for the Falls Township Volunteer Fire Department to do their magic here. Of course, we will split the prophets. But we can all agree that it is a great deal for all parties involved. Hopefully, next week we will have more definitive plans.

My hope is that parishioners will come out, if you feel comfortable with the setup. We will have a tent like in the past. We will have some music to give a festive atmosphere but not to make people deaf. We have plenty of tables to space around. We will have a number of foods that we usually have at our festivals with plenty of beverages. What is important is that we have a chance to get together as a community. I think we all miss being together.

As with all festivals we will also have our traditional raffle tickets which will be mailed out to our parishioners. The raffle is an important part of the fund-raising part of the festival. We also have plans for some kid's games. There is also a Chinese Auction in the works.

As I said we are planning on doing this all in one day: Saturday August 1st. The time will be from 4:00 p.m. until 11 p.m. So, mark your calendar and cross your fingers. I don't expect a huge success in terms of fundraising. However, I am looking for a huge success in the people of the parish reconnecting and renewing relationships. I hope you will make

plans to join us in the School Parking Lot, even if it is only for a short time.

The week preceding the festival we will be having A Vacation Bible School for the children of the parish. This would be a good opportunity for our children to get together. Plans are in the making to make this a good, safe and spiritually beneficial event for our children.

Now as we look to the beginning of the School year: we are making adjustments and plans. So far it appears to be complicated in meeting all the requirements to begin the new school year. We need to open our schools. Again, the statistics, data, reports and interpretations of the statistics are at times contradictory, misleading and downright confusing. In the long run we are hurting our children by not having them in the classroom. As every educator knows, students easily have setbacks the more they are away from actively learning. I believe they lose two months for every month out of the classroom. I know many of our students had plenty of work to do during the lockdown. I am also aware of many who did nothing or did not have work to do. This is very unfortunate and only hurts our children.

Just the same, we need to get our schools open. It has been heard by many and I will say it again, our kids need to be in school. As adults we must make the necessary sacrifices for our children. We cannot expect our children to make sacrifices for us. Our schools are for our children first and foremost. Our schools are not places so that adults may have jobs. Sometimes I think this point gets lost or confused. We need to renew our understanding about the purpose for our schools. It's about our students: our children. We cannot continue to harm their development by keeping them home and isolated. They need to be with their fellow students for their emotional and intellectual development. In our parish school they need to be with their fellow students for their faith and spiritual maturity. They need to be on the playgrounds and playing fields for their physical wellbeing. As adults we need to make whatever sacrifices necessary to make this happen for their sakes.

There was something that I was thinking about this past week as I was preparing for morning mass. It comes from the Gospel of Matthew which we are reading these days. Jesus gets into a boat and the disciples follow. (Mt 8:23-27) While at sea a storm quickly develops, and the boat is being tossed about and is in danger of sinking. Meanwhile Jesus is asleep, and the disciples are in a panic. The terrified disciples wake him as say..." Lord save us! We are perishing!" Jesus gets up and said to them, "*Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?*"

We can understand the disciples being terrified about the situation they are in. Yet Jesus' response addresses their faith. At this point in the Gospel the disciples have heard Jesus' teachings and are inspired. They have witnessed many miracles and again they are amazed. By this time, they should have faith in the person of Jesus. They were not to have faith in teachings. They were to have faith in the one who teaches. They were not to have faith in miracles. They were to have faith in the one who performed the miracles. The teachings and miracles, although important, are not the main thing here. They are secondary. They point to Jesus. Jesus is the primary focus. They are to have faith in Jesus. The teachings and miracles only point to him. He rebukes them for little faith because they do not know the one who is in their midst.

The disciples had little faith; a faith not fully matured. They have not fully understood the one who was present with them in the boat. When Jesus awoke and calmed the wind and the

waves, they were amazed. But they still had a way to go for mature faith.

We are a people of faith. For the most part we are like the disciples with little faith. We do not fully appreciate and trust the presence of God in our lives (our boat). We get terrified by the storms of life. We panic and properly turn to God shouting for help. A good thing, yet we remain in a panicked state. We find no calm.

As a people of faith, we try to live our lives as best as we can. We also must live our lives aware of the reassuring presence of Christ. We may think he is asleep and unconcerned, but the reality is that he is with us and we do not face the trials of life alone. He never promised that we would never have trials, yet he assures us that he is with us all the way. As a people of faith, we are to face the storms of life with an inner strength and peace knowing that we are not alone: Christ is with us.

During these past four months we have been in a storm with the corona virus etc. Now we have civil strife and disharmony in many of our major towns. This is rather unnerving and frightening. However, we are not alone. I'm not referring to all the celebrities telling us we are all in this together. I found no consolation in that at all. No, I am referring to our Blessed Lord who is always with us. He is the Lord of all creation and we are in his hands. No matter what this world throws at us, good or bad, life or death, we must trust that he is with us all the way. He alone can save us and bring us to the one true place we need to be. With faith we ultimately know that this is heaven.

Say a prayer for peace. Say a prayer also that everything will fall into place for our parish Family Night. Hopefully, we will have good news next week.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

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

JUNE BOOSTER MANIA WIINERS

- \$50- John Wiles
- \$25- Ron Koverman, Mary Ann Bucci, Jack Dillon, John Wiles, Justin Echelberry, Dan Backus, Dave Pfeifer, Steve Dillon, Mike Potts



SAVE THE DATE



RECONNECT WITH YOUR PARISH FAMILY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020

4:00 P.M.- 11:00 P.M.

behind Bishop Fenwick School

Join us for a Fun Night of Food, Fellowship, Games & Entertainment!!

Watch the bulletin and stnickparish.org for more details in the coming weeks!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THIS EVENING A SUCCESS! PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO SIGN UP!

Church Support

June 28, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$7,365.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$3,476.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly surplus	\$(3,384.00)

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

Volunteers Needed! Vacation Bible School will be held the week of Monday, July 27th through July 31st. If you would like to help with this year's Vacation Bible School, please complete and return the form found in this week's bulletin or on-line or call the parish office. Many hands make light work!

"WANTED" Girls Basketball JV Coach

Bishop Rosecrans High School (Zanesville, OH). Is seeking an Assistant Varsity/JV girls' basketball coach. Interested candidates should submit letter of interest, resume, and references to Head Basketball Coach, Vince Tolson at vtolsonus@yahoo

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

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 or our website: stnickparish.org.

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 as you like online and still earn the percentage towards tuition.



What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, July 6, St. Maria Goretti
9:00 a.m., Mass: *Bill & Sally Flear, Church*

TUESDAY, July 7
9:00 a.m., Mass: *Ruth Jordan, Church*

WEDNESDAY, July 8
9:00 a.m., Mass: *Robert & Paula Fargus, Church*

THURSDAY, July 9, St. Augustine
9:00 a.m., Mass: *Pastor's intention, Church*

FRIDAY, July 10
9:00 a.m., Mass: *Don and Jim Greulich, Church*

15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, July 11, St. Benedict
4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., *Confessions, Church*
5:15 p.m., Mass: *Mr. & Mrs. Fred Sullivan, Church*

SUNDAY, July 12
8:15 a.m., Mass: *Ann Arnold, Church*
10:45 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*

Readings for Week of July 6

Mon.	Hos 2:16, 17b- 18, 21-22	Mt 9:18-26
Tues.	Hos 8:4-7, 11-13	Mt 9:32-38
Wed	Hos 10:1-3, 7-8	Mt 10:1-7
Thurs.	Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9	Mt 10:7-15
Fri.	Hos 14:2-10	Mt 10:16-23
Sat.	Is 6:1-8	Mt 10:24-33
Sun	Is 55:10-11	Mt 13:1-23

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.

St. Nicholas Parish Office Chapel is open to pray the Rosary on Monday at 2:00 p.m. for anyone who would like to participate.