

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

The 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal is now taking place throughout the diocese. Every year the funds raised through this effort are an assurance of the continued work of the diocese. Our parish participation is something that we need to address. This year's appeal theme is "*Living the Joy of the Gospel*".

This year's theme for the Bishop's Annual Appeal inspires us as the people of faith in the Diocese of Columbus to share joyfully the Good News of Christ to those who most need to feel His love. Works of kindness and assistance, sometimes in the smallest way, can bring about a profound change in a person's life. Through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, we have an opportunity to bring about a positive change in the lives of many of God's people. Through our generosity we will be supporting the various ministries and programs that are vital in spreading the Love of Christ. We are asked to make a commitment to this important work of the diocese. We live in difficult times. The virtue of love and generosity is particularly challenging during these days. We have needs in our parish and community. We are asked to stretch ourselves a little more these days in generosity to those who are in need throughout the diocese.

One of the difficulties we face as a parish is the number of parishioners/households participating in the appeal. Last year we had approximately 15 - 18% of the parish participating in the Annual Appeal. We need to see greater participation.

My suggestion is that everyone (individual households) must take a Bishop's Annual Appeal envelope, fill in the information and contribute to this year's appeal. The envelopes are in the pews. Again, we need greater participation in this matter. This is particularly difficult because our Sunday attendance has been down since the middle of March. I would like to gently remind the parish of our shared responsibility that we all have for our parish as well as our diocese. We all have our list of responsibilities. Support of the work of the Diocese of Columbus, of which is usually not foremost in our minds, is one of those responsibilities. Therefore, let this be a gentle reminder of our responsibility for St. Nick and the diocese. I just ask that every parishioner participate by taking an envelope and respond accordingly. Thank you.

Plans are coming together for our Family Fun Night on August 1st. We have several people already volunteering for the various jobs that need to be accomplished. Raffle tickets are being prepared to be sent out in the mail (as of this writing on Monday afternoon). Everything is lining up for the Chicken Dinner. Remember you can stop by and purchase dinners to take home if you prefer. We will have a tent with tables and chairs available. Proper spacing will be provided for your comfort. Music, food and beverages will also be available as usual.

We have been reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew for our Sunday liturgies. The current section deals with Parables about the Kingdom of God. As you recall last Sunday the sower was spreading the seed (the Word) that landed on different kinds of soil. The seed is consistently the same, the Good Word, but it was the type of soil that either resisted or received the seed. One important factor determining the success of the seed was the quality of soil. To put it another way, the effectiveness of the Word of God in this world depends on our willingness to receive the Word and thus allowing it to grow and manifest itself. In a way of speaking this is consistent with the way God works in our world: God does not force us to do anything against our will. God's Word just as God's grace never forces us but we are invited

to welcome it and let it work. Grace builds on nature; it does not set it aside. It is the same for the Word of God. We have free will. We also willfully pray that God's will be done.

This week we read about the sower who sows good seed. Then during the night an enemy comes and sows weeds in the same field. It takes a while before the nature of the seeds that were sown begin to reveal themselves. Yes, the field is the world. We live in a world that manifests both good and evil. We are surrounded. Such a mixture can cause us anxiety. For those who value a good and bountiful harvest find it threatening and difficult. For those who participate in sinful activities such chaos is welcomed. The evil one delights in the confusion. The servants of the good farmer find the whole thing distressing and want to act on it by pulling the weeds. The wisdom of the farmer is to let them grow until the harvest where the final separation between the good and the evil will take place.

The parables are about the Kingdom of God. We say the Kingdom is present but not in its fullness yet. In other words, the Kingdom is present but not perfectly. We recall that Jesus' first proclamation at the beginning of his ministry is to declare "*repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand*". Wherever Jesus is present there is the Kingdom of God. When we receive the Word of God (Jesus Christ), Jesus is made present today in our lives. The good seed grows, and the growing wheat represents the presence of Christ today. Wherever we see the wheat growing we see the Kingdom. The growing is not the fullness of the harvest: it is a foretaste of heaven. At we harvest, when the wheat is gathered into the barn, we find the fullness of the Kingdom.

The reality preventing the Kingdom of God from being fully present here and now is that fact that we live in a world that is tainted by sin; the presence of the weeds growing along with the wheat. We also realize that, in reference to last Sunday's gospel, that those who have received the word are producing a growth that is thirty or sixty or a hundred-fold. There is that element about the degree of personal willingness in receiving the Word. We still must deal with our personal sins that inhibit with the growth of the Word of God in our personal lives.

It all sounds very complicated. Thank God that God is in charge. God in His great wisdom perceives it all and judges accordingly. As today's parable reassures us, God is truly wise and will make sure all is right in the end. Along the way we must do our personal best in humbly receiving and trusting the Word that is planted in our lives.

This growth takes time. We want to see positive results quickly because that reassures us. The figure of the farmer is right on target. We must be patient, trusting the good seed. It grows slowly but surely. It always seems that we want good things quickly. But when it comes to bad or evil things... they happen quickly and appear overwhelming and triumphant. It is easy to despair during such things. Patiently trusting the Word of God, Jesus Christ, is the invitation to have faith in Him. Faith, like love, is an act of the will. God's will be done.

There are many things in these parables about the Kingdom of God for us to reflect upon and find spiritual nourishment for our lives as disciples. As Jesus speaks to the disciples, he is also inviting them to trust Him since they have heard all he has taught and have seen all the miracles he performed. They have witnessed much and need time for it to take root in their minds and hearts. They need to patiently let all that they have witnessed transform their lives. This is something that is true for them as well as for us: it all takes time. Like all good plants, it grows slowly as it makes deep roots. These deep roots are necessary to support the visible manifestation in the

world. Good and healthy plants have deep roots. Thus, it takes time for God’s Word to take root and work in transforming our lives.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko



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

*We welcome into the church the newly baptized,
Anna Margaret Garber,
daughter of Adam & Michelle Garber*

Church Support

July 12, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$10,251.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$6,362.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly deficit	\$(498.00)

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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 call the parish office. Many hands make light work!

CHINESE AUCTION ITEMS

We are having a smaller version of our Chinese Auction during the Family Fun Night. We need gift cards from anywhere and in any amount. Please purchase and return them to the parish office before **Friday, July 24**. Call Dee at the parish office with questions, 453-0597. Thank you!



Cat.Chat Vacation Bible School is coming to a Catholic Church near you!

Come along as we learn about the... MARVELOUS MYSTERY
The Mass Comes Alive

Who: Kids ages 4 to 11

Where: St. Nicholas Church Activity Center & Church

When: July 27th – 31st

Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. daily

Cost: Free – Donations accepted

Registration Deadline: July 22nd!

Contact: Patty – (740) 453-0597

Music! Games! Faith! Snacks! Crafts! ...and More!

SAVE THE DATE



RECONNECT WITH YOUR PARISH FAMILY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020

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

behind Bishop Fenwick School

Admission is FREE!

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!

Live the Truth and Beauty of God’s Plan for Married Love!

Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, July 19 – 25, celebrates God’s vision for marriage and promotes Natural Family Planning (NFP). The dates of NFP Awareness Week highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical Humanae Vitae (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love, and responsible parenthood. The dates also mark the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26), the parents of the Blessed Mother. Are you wondering why the Catholic Church promotes NFP? Visit <http://www.columbuscatholic.org/natural-family-planning> or contact NFP Coordinator Jennifer Fullin to learn more about NFP.

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.” - MATTHEW 13:24, 37-38

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF ZANESVILLE

We are still accepting enrollment applications. If you are interested in enrolling, please call the school office 740-454-9731 or 740-452-7504! This is a great time to be a BISHOP!

OHIO EdChoice
Scholarship



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 20, St. Apollinaris

9:00 a.m., Mass: Cecil Mary Soller, Church

TUESDAY, July 21, St. Lawrence of Brindisi

9:00 a.m., Mass: Langdon Thomas, Church

WEDNESDAY, July 22, St. Mary Magdalene

9:00 a.m., Mass: John Hohman, Church

THURSDAY, July 23, St. Bridget

9:00 a.m., Mass: Elaine Smith, Church

FRIDAY, July 24, St. Sharbel Marklúf

9:00 a.m., Mass: Mary Baughman, birthday, Church

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, July 25, St. James

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: Bill Sullivan, Sr. anniversary, Church

SUNDAY, July 26

8:15 a.m., Mass: Mary Dozer, Church

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

Readings for Week of July 20

Mon.	Mi 6:1-4, 6-8	Mt 12:38-42
Tues.	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20	Mt 12:46-50
Wed	Sg 3:1-4a	Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Thurs.	Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13	Mt 13:10-17
Fri.	Jer 3:14-17	Mt 13:18-23
Sat.	2 Cor 4:7-15	Mt 20:20-28
Sun	1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12	Mt 13:44-52

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.