

# 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Our parish "festival" is upon us. Our Annual St. Nicholas Parish Festival will be held next Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 – 11:00 p.m. Our parish festival is an important fund-raising event that helps defray the costs to the parish for our parish school. This year it is particularly difficult with the current pandemic. Just the same it is a good opportunity to momentarily visit with friends, enjoy good food and refreshments. We have entertainment, raffles, and a Chinese Auction. There is a Chicken Dinner being prepared by the Falls Township Volunteer Fire Department. If you do not feel comfortable about having dinner on the premises, please purchase a **take-out** dinner. Really take out service is available. Please feel free to join family and friends at this year's St. Nicholas Parish Festival even if it for just a short visit.

I said it once before and I think it is worth repeating at this point. The sale of the raffle tickets for the Grand Prize is directly connected with the success of our "festival". This year's Raffle Tickets have just been mailed out and you should have them. This was done through the generosity of a sponsor. The returns so far have been great. Thank you. Just the same, I encourage you to help make our modified festival successful in this aspect by buying/selling your raffle tickets. Besides... who wouldn't take a chance to win \$5,000.00? Good luck.

The benefits from the festival are a great asset to our parish as well as the school. The funds generated from this event are only one part of the overall goal. Working together, visiting with family and friends, enjoying some time together builds and renews relationships. People gathering and working together for a common cause always builds community. There is a twofold benefit, the building of relationships of our parish community and the necessary funds for our parish and school. Please plan on attending.

Also note well this week we are having our Vacation Bible School. Please check out the notice and information in this bulletin.

For our Sunday liturgies we have been reading from a section of the Gospel of St. Matthew known as the Parables of the Kingdom. We have not covered all the parables and some we have passed over for our Sunday liturgies. All these parables give us some aspect for reflections on the Kingdom of God. It is a great mystery that we continually draw different lessons for our spiritual nourishment supporting our faith life.

One thing that should be noted; wherever we find Jesus Christ we also find the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom is present where Jesus is present. When we find Jesus Christ, we also find the presence of all that is good, true and beautiful, the fullness of which can only be found in him. These characteristics are the tell-tale sign of the Kingdom.

There was an image that has stuck with me for several years about the Kingdom of God. We even get a glimpse of it in today's gospel passage. It is the image of a large diamond with many facets. It is one beautiful diamond that if you look at it from different angles it radiates and reflects its beauty in different ways. The beauty of these parables of the Kingdom of God gives us the chance of viewing the diamond in different ways. The different way of viewing the Kingdom is beneficial for giving us greater appreciation for this mystery instilling spiritual insights. The Kingdom is a beautiful mystery that continues to reveal itself. We all benefit from these reflections. These reflections always zero in on the one main object: the perfect Kingdom is at the heart of the Triune Godhead. Within God there is the perfect

community: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The most perfect community of the Holy Trinity is the Kingdom of God. This is Heaven. God is the focal point, revealed in and through Jesus Christ. Thus, where we find Jesus Christ, we find the Kingdom of God.

This differs greatly from the kingdom(s) of this world. All worldly kingdoms are only focused on some aspect of humanity as being the ultimate good. The word that describes a perfect human kingdom is Utopia. There is always some "good" that is held up as the ultimate good which will make all humanity fulfilled and happy. As good as it may sound, unfortunately that will never happen in this world. We just need to look to history. The dustbin of history has example after example of worldly kingdoms rising and falling. There is some "good" that moves to a golden era but it never last. They never last because they are based on a "good" idea that has a human origin: a human value. With a human origin they will fall and never fulfill humanity. I refer you to the Acts of the Apostles chapter 5: 33-39. "...if this plan or this undertaking is of men, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might ever be found opposing God!"

There is one Kingdom that has endured the test of time: our ancestors in faith, the Jewish people. Now our Judeo-Christian tradition has endured the test of time. The clear reason is that we are in a Covenant Relationship with God. The ultimate "Good" is not something human in origin. Today, for the Christian community, our origin is found in God. The Church is founded on the cornerstone of Christ. This is the Kingdom of God and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. By extension, our country is founded on Judeo-Christian principles. We must trust these founding principles always: In God We Trust. Our weakness is found in our humanity, our strength is found in God.

When we hear Jesus proclaim that the Kingdom of God is at hand: he is declaring that God is in our midst. In the middle of a sinful world there is a manifestation of the presence of God in the world: Jesus Christ. By virtue of our Baptism we are members of the Body of Christ: The Church. Living our lives in communion with Christ we necessarily become his living presence during this sinful world (wheat in a field sown with weeds). It is also in our unique lives we reflect Christ to others as various reflections of the diamond that is Christ. Others will know Christ because of his disciples.

Living the Christian life and sharing in the mission of Jesus, we are reflections of Christ and His Kingdom. This is the yeast that a woman took and mixed with wheat flour that causes the whole batch of dough to rise. The Kingdom of God permeates everything. This is the great treasure discovered unexpectedly in a field that causes one to sell everything to buy that field. This is the discovery of a pearl of great price that one is willing to sell everything to possess. The Kingdom of God is that one true good that surpasses all worldly goods for which we give everything in order to possess. Only a fool would sacrifice everything for something that will corrode and pass away in due time. The only true good is eternal.

St. Augustine starts his autobiography, his "Confessions" with the words... "*Our hearts are restless O God; our hearts are restless until they rest in you.*" Nothing temporal or transitory will fully satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart but God.

Therefore, the various political theories that propose some Utopia such as Marxism, Socialism, and the likes fail. They are godless and never satisfy the deepest longing of the human heart. Since they are godless, they will fail. In our country, in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution it is direct and upfront, we are endowed by our Creator. God is very much a part

of our founding. God is the guiding light, the founding principle, of our nation. Jesus Christ is the yeast in the flour. Jesus Christ is the hidden treasure and pearl of great price.

Jesus Christ is the Incarnate Word of God, the human face of God. We are members of the Body of Christ and we are to incarnate the presence of Christ in the world today: discipleship. The Kingdom of God is in our midst. We are important participants in the Kingdom of God here and now. We will not be confused or distracted by any false ideologies or proposed Utopias that promise fulfillment without God. Our hearts, our very lives, find confidence and rest in God alone through Jesus Christ.

Have a great week.  
Father Ralko

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:  
Judith Batross Goodrich*

**CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS**

Beginning Monday, July 27, our office hours will be Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.



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  
**Registration Deadline:** Can register at the door but please come early we start promptly at 6:00 p.m.

**Time:** 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. daily  
**When:** July 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>  
**Cost:** Free – Donations accepted  
**Contact:** Patty – (740) 453-0597

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

ATTENTION: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STARTS MONDAY, JULY 27<sup>TH</sup>. FOR THE FIRST NIGHT WE WILL MEET IN THE ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH BASEMENT! PLEASE ARRIVE TEN MINUTES EARLY TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE AGAIN!

**ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY FUN NIGHT**  
**SATURDAY**  
**AUGUST 1, 2020**

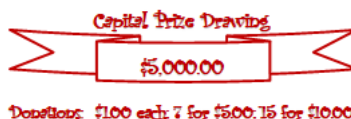
4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Featuring a Falls Township Chicken Dinner

To Go Boxes Available!

Join Us! See Old Friends! Come & Relax!

St. Nicholas Activity Center and School Grounds



- Other options include:
- Taco Salad
  - Taco Salad
  - Taco in a Bag
  - Lemon Shake-Up
  - Beer
  - Tom's Ice Cream
  - Dominos Pizza
  - Jones Ice

**DON'T FORGET THE CHINESE AUCTION!**

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

**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 **Wednesday, July 29**. Call Dee at the parish office with questions, 453-0597. Thank you!

**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!



**APPLICATION WINDOW REOPENING**  
**UP TO \$6,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**



Ohio gives families-in-need OR any child assigned to underperforming schools a choice

# 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## Church Support

July 19, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$10,032.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$6,143.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly deficit	\$(717.00)

**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 or our website: [stnickparish.org](http://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.



## *What's Happening in Our Parish*

### MONDAY, July 27

*9:00 a.m., Mass: Dee Joseph, Church*

### TUESDAY, July 28

*9:00 a.m., Mass: Daniel J. Paul, Church*

### WEDNESDAY, July 29, St. Martha

*9:00 a.m., Mass: Mrs. Jean James, Church*

### THURSDAY, July 30, St. Peter Chrysologus

*9:00 a.m., Mass: Robert "Shag" Grotegeer, Church*

### FRIDAY, July 31, St. Ignatius of Loyola

*9:00 a.m., Mass: Mary Hupp, birthday, Church*

## *17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time*

### SATURDAY, August 1

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

*5:15 p.m., Mass: Bob & Nancy Thompson wedding anniversary, Church*

### SUNDAY, August 2

*8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*

*10:45 a.m., Mass: Kathy Shawger, birthday & wedding anniversary, Church*

## *Readings for Week of July 27*

Mon. . . . .	Jer 13:1-11	Mt 13:31-35
Tues. . . . .	Jer 14:17-22	Mt 13:36-43
Wed . . . . .	Jer 15:10, 16-21	Jn 11:19-27
Thurs. . . . .	Jer 18:1-6	Mt 13:47-53
Fri. . . . .	Jer 26:1-9	Mt 13:54-58
Sat. . . . .	Jer 26:11-16, 24	Mt 14:1-12
Sun . . . . .	Is 55:1-3	Mt 14:13-21

*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.*