

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From the Pastor's Desk

Our school year is underway, and everything is running smoothly. There has been a great deal of cooperation on the part of teachers, staff, parents and our students. I hope the same is in play with all our parish students and schools. We ask God's blessing upon all our students, teachers, staff and parents.

A reminder: this week the time for our morning masses will be at 8:00 a.m. except for Wednesday. That time will be at 9:00 a.m. so we can accommodate the students attending Bishop Rosecrans and Bishop Fenwick. As for Thursday, I plan on being here so I will have the 8:00 a.m. mass this week. As for the future I will schedule it week by week.

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Jesus asks his disciple. Then he follows with the question, "Who do you say that I am?" We recall these words from last Sunday's gospel. It is Peter who responds with the words, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" Jesus acknowledges that these words are a gift from God because no mere human being could ever reveal this to him. The Heavenly Father revealed this to Peter. Therefore, it is a gift. It is not the conclusion from Peter's thinking it is a revelation. Peter then gave voice to this revelation from the Father. He witnessed to the Gift. He witnessed to the gift of Faith.

Faith is a pure gift: a gracious gift. "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" This revelation is the gift of Faith. Yet we often say that we struggle in understanding this thing we call faith. It is when we look at faith from our human perspective and not as God's gift that we struggle. When we do that, which is common with all humans, we speak in terms of having strong or weak; or I believe, or I do not believe. In our prayers we ask God to strengthen our faith. Yet in reality we are asking for the courage to trust the Faith: The Gift of Faith. Let us continue to reflect on this thing we call faith.

Listening further to last Sunday's gospel we hear Jesus affirm Peter's declaration. Then he calls him "Rock", "*and upon this rock I will build my church...*" We say that the Church is built on the "Rock" of Peter's faith. How are we to understand this? It becomes even more difficult to understand when we hear today's gospel passage (Matt 16: 21-27) that Jesus says to Peter "*get behind me Satan!*" Again, how do we understand this "Rock" upon which the Church is built, and the gates of the netherworld will not prevail against it? With Jesus calling Peter Satan, it sounds like the gates of the netherworld wasted no time in attacking.

We must remember that Faith is a gift from God. But what is the nature of this gift? It is the revelation of Jesus as *the Christ* (Messiah) who is also *the Son of God*. This is Divine Revelation and all Divine Revelation is a gift from God. Divine Revelation is God's self-revelation. God is sharing Himself with humanity. This is done through *Jesus the Christ, the Son of God*. Without Divine Revelation we would never know anything of God. The Incarnation, the Divine Word became flesh, thus Jesus is the perfect self-revelation of God. That is the Gift: *Jesus the Christ the Son of God*. This is the Gift of Faith: God's self-revelation. The more we read and reflect on Jesus Christ in the Gospels, praying with the Scriptures, and receive the teachings and the sacraments of the Church, the more the Faith (the Gift) takes root in us and grows. This Gift is available to all peoples. The gift of Faith is available to all.

Peter declares this Gift from the Heavenly Father: "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" Peter declares the Faith. This revelation never changes. It is the absolute truth. Peter gives voice to this truth. Just the Gift from God is alone enough. Peter is the "Rock" that declares Jesus Christ the Son of God on which the Church and all she contains is founded.

Now the human element is something we will never be able to shake. We are human through and through. We have weakness with limitations in our understanding, wisdom and patience to name only a few of our shortcomings. That being the case, we will at times falter when we forget that we have the Gift of Faith from the Heavenly Father. We falter when this Gift has not been nurtured by our prayers and reflections. We falter when we do not let this gift influence our thoughts, words and actions. When we falter, we think we have lost our faith. Yet when we falter, we should realize that we have not lost the Gift of Faith, rather we have not trusted what we have received from the Heavenly Father. The Faith is there. The lack of trust is ours. Recall Peter when he stepped out of the boat and walked on water. The Lord was there, but he was distracted and took his eyes off Jesus. (We will reflect more on Peter with this Sunday's Gospel.) Our faltering never negates the truth of the Gift of Faith.

The Church is not built on Peter's act of faith but on his witness. The Church is built on Jesus Christ the Son of God whom Peter gives witness. The Church is built on the Gift that Peter received from the Heavenly Father. That singular truth is the foundation. Peter, with all his human shortcomings, merely declared this one truth. That truth is the foundation of the Church. Without Jesus Christ it all falls apart.

The Church cannot be built on a false teaching: a lie. Peter did not declare a lie or a falsehood or even an opinion. He declared "*You are the Christ, the Son of God*" which is the absolute truth. To expect people to trust a falsehood is cruel and inhuman. If Jesus was not *the Christ and the Son of God*, it would be a cruel joke to expect people to give their lives in loving service to Jesus Christ. It would be evil and demonic. It is as simple as that.

The fullness of the Church rests upon the foundation of this Gift of Faith: Jesus Christ. The dogmas of the Holy Trinity and the Incarnation rest on this Gift of Faith. The Church and her Sacraments rests upon the Gift of Faith. All Sacred Scripture, the creed, the teachings, our worship and our way of life rests upon the Gift of Faith: Jesus Christ.

With the Gift of Faith firmly secured, the response is ours. We must declare the Faith in daily life. We speak of this as the "Practice of the Faith". We must practice our faith daily in thought, word and deed. The practice of the Faith falls to us. Thus, we practice the faith by frequenting the sacraments, praying at Sunday mass and in private as we live our Christian life. The practice of the Faith brings us into greater communion with Jesus Christ which always leads us to perfect communion with him in heaven. It is all about Jesus Christ the Son of God from the beginning, throughout our lives and brought to perfection as our final goal: Heaven. This is the Faith. This is what we believe and give witness with St. Peter.

The Gift of Faith is available to everyone. The question remains as to whether we are open to it and willing to trust the Gift we have received.

Have a Blessed Week
Father Ralko

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

We pray for those who have died recently:

*Sr. Miriam Dosch
and Margaret Rodonsky*

**4th Annual Rick “Paps” Lee Memorial Golf Outing
“Gives Back”**

**Proceeds this year will benefit the
Landon Jade Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund
for Bishop Rosecrans High School**

Saturday, Sept. 19 at Jaycees Golf Club- 8:00 a.m. shotgun start (4 person scramble). \$60/person: includes lunch and 2 drink tickets. Contact Chad Lee at (614) 397-4105 or cdlee12@icloud.com for more information or to register.



Church Support

August 23, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$9,926.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$6,037.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly deficit	\$(823.00)

Men of the East

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 303 E High St., Mt. Vernon, will host the Men of the East for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Thursday, September 10th starting at 7:00 p.m. in the church. All men of the twelve-parish consortium are invited to attend. Fr. Olvera will offer an extended homily. All current state and diocese COVID-19 protections will be observed. Men of The East is a new Catholic Men's Laity Ministry comprised of all Catholic men 18 years and older who are registered at one of the twelve parishes in Knox, Licking and Muskingum Counties. Men of The East exist to support, strengthen, and help maximize the spiritual growth of men of the Catholic Church. Men of The East is a part of the larger Catholic Men's Laity Ministry for the Columbus Ohio Diocese.

Sadie Corry Pilgrimage to Carey, OH

For the first time since 1963 our annual trip has been cancelled. Hopefully we will be able to return in 2021. God bless.

Job Opening at Sacred Heart Elementary, Coshocton

The Title IA Teacher serves as a part-time Title I Instructional Specialist (teacher) for students during the regular school day, providing instructional services in the areas of reading, language arts, mathematics, library, counselor, or other authorized area of instructional services under the existing contract. This role will be around 9-12 hours weekly and we will reimburse for travel for up to 90 miles.

To apply go to <https://careers-nelnet.icims.com/jobs/10710/title-ia-teacher---facts-ed-solutions/job>



**This weekend, August 29 & 30,
St. Vincent de Paul will be
“Holding the Hat” during all
Masses as a 2nd collection.**

“MUM” Is THE WORD!

Announcing the Eastside Community Ministry
5th Annual MUM Sale!

Mums provided by “McDonald’s Greenhouse”

(Orders & payment due to ECM by **Tuesday, Sept. 1 at Noon**)

Decorate your home and/or business for the upcoming
Fall Season & support the work of ECM!

Have a question, call Jamie or Melissa at ECM (740) 452-7519.

Order forms are available in the front pews in the church.



The word Virtue comes from the Latin “Virtus” which means strength. By practicing virtues, we are strengthening our spiritual muscles. With the Help of the Holy Spirit we are able to repent of our sins and live a more virtuous life. This

week pray the following prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen the gifts received at your Baptism (Faith, Hope & Love).

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of your divine love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of your divine Spirit, grant us by that same Spirit to be truly wise and to rejoice in your holy consolation. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

“What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” - MATTHEW 16:26

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, August 31

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Rita Hecker, birthday, Church*

TUESDAY, September 1

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Harold Roessler, Church*

WEDNESDAY, September 2

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

THURSDAY, September 3, St. Gregory the Great, Pope

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Pastor's intention, Church*

FRIDAY, September 4

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Clarence & Mary Hupp, anniversary, Church*

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, September 5

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: *The Harsh & Freiermuth Families, Church*

SUNDAY, September 6

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

10:45 a.m., Mass: *Camillus Sullivan, anniversary, Church*

Readings for Week of August 31

Mon.	1 Cor 2:1-5	Lk 4:16-30
Tues.	1 Cor 2:10b- 16	Lk 4:31-37
Wed	1 Cor 3:1-9	Lk 4:38-44
Thurs.	1 Cor 3:18-23	Lk 5:1-11
Fri.	1 Cor 4:1-5	Lk 5:33-39
Sat.	1 Cor 4:6b-15	Lk 6:1-5
Sun	Ez 33:7-9	Mt 18:15-20

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.

