

## 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From the Pastor's Desk

The Diocese of Columbus is collecting data in an attempt to plan for the future as best as possible. There is a Diocesan Committee for the New Evangelization that is collecting current diocesan and local information by surveying various groups and individuals. A particular group of individuals of great interest are people who no longer attend Church or no longer consider themselves to be Catholic. With this particular group there is a great interest in knowing their thoughts. This is important to the diocese in general and for us locally so that we can better allocate time and resources to address the evangelization needs of the diocese and for the local Church.

While many of us may think we know the reasons or assume their responses, the diocese would really like to hear from the people themselves; in their own words. With this in mind the diocese would really like for us to get this word out to our parishioners. The diocese is seeking your help in reaching those individuals you may know who no longer attend Church. We all know individuals who have "fallen away" for one reason or another. Many are our own family members: our children, friends, and even family members who have moved away. The diocese is seeking their input no matter where they reside.

Below is the communication sent to the parish that we are posting in our bulletin and webpage.

The Diocese of Columbus is studying information as part of a strategic planning process to evangelize the future of the Catholic faith. Current and local information from individuals on why they no longer attend Church or no longer consider themselves Catholic would be very helpful in the planning process. There is great value knowing these answers to address the evangelization needs specifically in our Diocese for the future. While many of us may think we know the reasons or assume them, the Diocese really wants to hear from the people themselves. Therefore, please help get the word out to take this survey by those who have fallen away from the Church or who are no longer active in the Church. This may be a loved one, a child who no longer attends, a sibling who moved away, a friend, an acquaintance, etc. Please only ask people to take the survey if they have fallen away from the Church or are no longer active in the Church. Here is the survey link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LDH6SDH>

The collected information would be helpful for the Diocese of Columbus and for our local parishes for the future of the Catholic Community in Muskingum County. This notice will be on our parish webpage and will be included in future bulletins. Please pass it along to anyone whom you know, even if you think they may not be open to this survey. We will never know unless we ask. Who knows, they may surprise us. Thank you.

Today we observe the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In our first reading from the Prophet Isaiah we come across the name "King Cyrus". King Cyrus is an unlikely individual who will be doing God's Will on behalf of Israel. Isaiah prophesies "*I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not.*" He is the Persian King during the time of the Babylonian Exile. Cyrus, a pagan, will be the one who releases the Israelites from their exile in Babylon. He sends them back to Jerusalem to rebuild their city and temple. This pagan king becomes their "savior". They were expecting a Messiah to rise up to liberate them. They never would have expected a pagan king to be their liberator.

God has a way of surprising us. The greatest surprise is the Incarnation: Jesus Christ. No one would ever have expected that... "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*" We are so used to hearing this that we do not find how surprising it really is. The reality that God became one of us in the person of Jesus for our salvation is inconceivable. We cannot make this up. This mystery could only be revealed to us by God.

God wants us to know of his love and faithfulness. The love and faithfulness of God can be revealed to us by the Law and the Prophets throughout the Old Testament. Yet we are human beings and we depend on concrete, tangible expressions of love and faithfulness. The perfect tangible revelation of God's love and faithfulness is revealed in a real-life person: Jesus, God's only begotten Son. Once we grasp this reality it makes abundant sense.

This goes back to the reason why God wants us to know of his love and faithfulness. God desires for us to know, love and trust Him. This is our hope for eternal life with Him. The most important virtues in this world are faith, hope and love. They are also the most difficult virtues to live in this imperfect world. They are difficult because they are Godly virtues to be lived in a sinful world. They are Godly because God is Love. God is faith. God is hope.

As human beings we aspire to the virtue of love. We cannot live without love. This love strives to be faithful. Faithful love gives us hope for a good future. This is true for our personal relationships. We want loving friendships. We want trusting friendships. Our friendships are good and keep us from despair. In other words, they give us a hopeful future. This is what we want in our human relationships. This is also a window into our relationship with God. This is the meaning of life for the Christian: "To know, love and serve God that we may be happy with Him forever in heaven." When we do this in this world, we are making the Kingdom of Heaven present here and now with the perfect fulfillment of the Kingdom at the end of time.

Circling back, we do this as followers of Jesus. He is the one who loves the Father. Jesus is the one who is faithful to the Father. Jesus is the one who hopes in the Father. Jesus not only reveals the Father to us He also reveals how we are to respond to the Father. In the words of Pope St. John Paul, "Jesus is the human face of God and the Divine face of man." Everything in the life of Jesus is about faith, hope and love. These virtues are at the center of Jesus' life. These virtues are also at the center of the life of all Christians.

Have a great week  
Father Ralko

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

**Church Support**

October 11, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$9,497.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$5,608.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly deficit	\$(1,252.00)

**May God bless you for supporting your parish!**

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

**Mt. Olive Cemetery** has a part time position available. Duties would include mowing, weed eating, helping to open and close graves, help pouring footers for headstones and snow removal. If interested, please call the Parish Office at 453-0597.

**“MONTH OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY”**

Please join St. Nicholas parishioners before each Mass during the month of October to pray the Rosary. Come 20 minutes early to Mass to pray!! There will be packets with a rosary and pamphlet on 'How to Pray the Rosary' in each pew. They are free to take, as all are encouraged to pray the Rosary daily. (replaces the current announcement)

**Interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith?**

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a great opportunity to discern God's call and mission for our lives, and an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Persons who attend RCIA include current Catholics who desire to go deeper into their faith, spouses of Catholics who want to learn more about what the church teaches, and inquirers who are just curious; as well as those who have made that decision to join the church. All are welcome! **CLASSES ARE HELD ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE PARISH OFFICE.** If you would like to join us, please call the office (740) 453-0597, ext. 14. (replaces the current announcement)

**Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)** is a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition program for men and women who experienced the trauma of being raised in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional home. It is a safe place to learn how alcoholism and other family dysfunction affected the past, how it influences the present, and how to heal the wounds for a better future. Meetings will be held in the Saint Nicholas Church Social Hall (Church Basement) Wednesdays, beginning October 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Please use the Silliman Street door. Meetings are expected to last no more than one hour, and masks are required. Contact James Sullivan for more Information at (740) 670-2959.

**Building a Culture of Life Series is October, Respect Life Month.** Join us for an extraordinary virtual series. Topics include Raising the Next Pro-Life Generation, Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service, Making End of Life Decisions, and a Respect Life Mass celebrated by Bishop Brennan. Sponsored by the diocesan Office for Social Concerns, Marriage & Family Life Office, and Greater Columbus Right to Life. No Cost. To register and for speaker details go to [www.bclclife](http://www.bclclife).

**Bishop Rosecrans Athletic Boosters**

It's time again to purchase your Booster Mania tickets for the upcoming year. \$25 each or three tickets for \$60, January 1 is the first drawing, they make a good gift. Questions: Contact Marvin Paul at 740-453-4482

**VETERANS DAY**

**DRIVE BY SALUTE**



Join the Veterans Appreciation Foundation



In saluting our community's veterans

*Drive by, honk your horns and honor our veterans!*

**When: Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 1pm - 3pm**

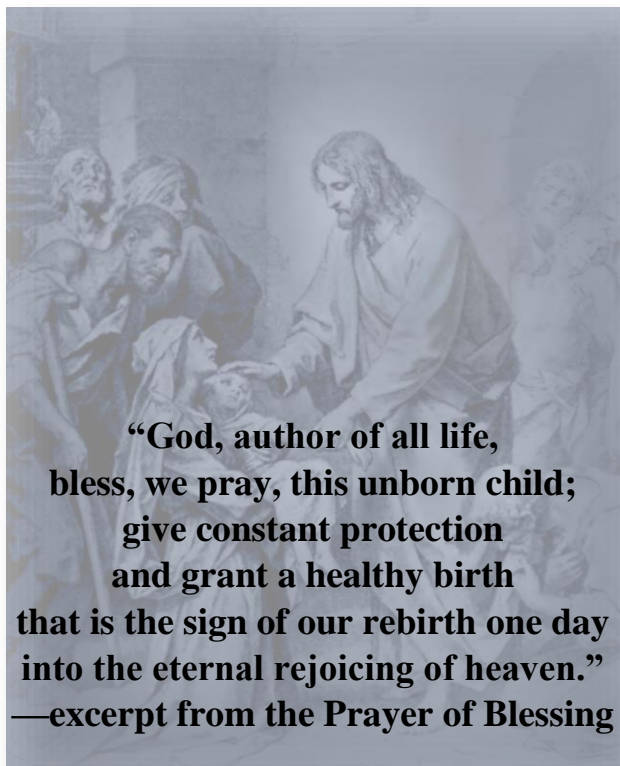
*Veterans will be at the facility front windows to receive your salute*

- Where:**
- \*The Oaks at Bethesda
  - \*The Oaks at Northpointe
  - \*Brookdale Zanesville
  - \*Primrose Retirement Community
  - \*Clay Gardens Place
  - \*Altercare Zanesville
  - \*Continuing Healthcare at Adams Lane
  - \*Continuing Healthcare at Cedar Hill
  - \*Continuing Healthcare at Willow Haven
  - \*Continuing Healthcare at Beckett House

What: St. Ann/St. Mary Annual Turkey Dinner—  
Carry Out Only

Where: St. Ann Parish Hall 4th & Chestnut Street Dresden,  
When: Sunday, November 1st 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
(unless food runs out earlier)  
Menu: Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,  
Green Beans, Roll, Applesauce, & Pumpkin Pie  
Cost: Adults \$8.00 Children \$5.00

# 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**“God, author of all life,  
 bless, we pray, this unborn child;  
 give constant protection  
 and grant a healthy birth  
 that is the sign of our rebirth one day  
 into the eternal rejoicing of heaven.”  
 —excerpt from the Prayer of Blessing**

### 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. 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 something prevents 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).

***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.**

***Please join us each Monday at The St. Nicholas Parish Office Chapel at 2:00 p.m. as we gather to pray the Rosary asking Our Lady's Intercession for the many needs of our nation, community, and parish.***

## ***What's Happening in Our Parish***

### **MONDAY, October 19, SS. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues**

8:00 a.m., Mass: Cecil Mary Soller, Church  
 2:00 p.m., Rosary: Parish Office

### **TUESDAY, October 20, St. Paul of the Cross**

9:00 a.m., Mass: St. Thomas Intention, Church  
 [St. Nicholas Intention, Bertha Haren]

### **WEDNESDAY, October 21**

9:00 a.m., School Mass: Wesley L. Wilson, birthday, Church  
 7:00 p.m., RCIA: Parish Office  
 7:00 p.m., Adult Children of Alcoholics: Church Basement

### **THURSDAY, October 22, St. John Paul II, Pope**

8:00 a.m., Mass: St. Thomas Intention, Church

### **FRIDAY, October 23, St. John of Capistrano**

8:00 a.m., Mass: Rita Greiner, Church

## ***29th Sunday of Ordinary Time***

### **SATURDAY, October 24, St. Anthony Mary Claret**

11:00 a.m. & 4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church  
 5:15 p.m., Mass: Thomas Paul 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Church

### **SUNDAY, October 25**

8:15 a.m., Mass: Chuck Durant, Sr., Church  
 9:15 a.m., Sunday School: Parish Office  
 10:45 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church  
 2:00 p.m., 2020 Confirmation Students Reboot Class: Parish Office

## ***Readings for Week of October 19***

Mon. . . . .	Eph 2:1-10	Lk 12:13-21
Tues. . . . .	Eph 2:12-22	Lk 12:35-38
Wed . . . . .	Eph 3:2-12	Lk 12:39-48
Thurs. . . . .	Eph 3:14-21	Lk 12:49-53
Fri. . . . .	Eph 4:1-6	Lk 12:54-59
Sat. . . . .	Eph 4:7-16	Lk 13:1-9
Sun . . . . .	Ex 22:20-26	Mt 22:34-40

### **Cantor Schedule Oct. 25 & 26: (29th Sun. in Ord. Time)**

5:15 Laura DeCoy  
 8:15 Kerby Staker  
 10:45 Lucille Morosco

\*\*\*Rosary before Mass

Saturday, October 24th - 5:15 p.m. Mass - Margaret Kronenbitter  
 Sunday, October 25th - 8:15 a.m. Mass - Sandy Black  
 Sunday, October 25th - 10:45 a.m. Mass - Michael Kosco