

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From the Pastor's Desk

We are coming to the end of Respect Life Month and I have not talked much about the topic because I find myself preaching to the choir. Besides I am confident that those who have been attending the Sunday liturgies, especially during these difficult times of the pandemic, know what the Church teaches on these issues. No matter what we are to respect, cherish and nourish life at all stages. God is the author of life. We are not. It is seriously wrong to think that we are the ones who give life and determine the meaning of life. That is arrogance. That privilege belongs to the Creator and Author of life: God. We are to be humble in this matter.

There has been a commercial promoting a movie on the topic of abortion. It is called the "Divided Hearts of America." One quote for the promo is a woman declaring that "*this is one of the worst possible choices a woman and her family has to make*" obviously caught my attention because it was a centerpiece for the commercial. Something about this quote disturbed me. It just didn't sound right on several levels. It was my suspicion that there was more implied apart from the "heartfelt" serious tone of the woman speaking. It was from a woman who was on the pro-choice side of the issue.

Agreed, it is a serious issue. I know from the pro-life side of the argument why it is a serious issue. However, I am not convinced that we are on the same page as the pro-choice side of the argument. I don't think we agree on the *seriousness* of the decision. In the commercial it is assumed that both sides know and agree on the basis for the seriousness of this particular decision. So, the precise question must be WHY this is the most difficult or "the worst possible choice..." that must be made? The "why" must be pressed because we cannot be sure that both sides agree or even want to agree on the reason.

We have heard many arguments from the pro-choice side. Most reasons have to do with the future: this will ruin my plans for work, or my plans for college, or finances, or not being married... and so on. These are high pressure arguments and we have heard them and many others. However, to be honest these are all secondary to the main reason for the seriousness or difficulty of the decision. We can all agree that our expectations and the unknown future can carry pressures to force a decision. But we cannot control the future. We also know that many of our plans fail because of circumstances that prevent their fulfillment. Life changes and plans change as well. It is all part of the ups and downs of life.

But that doesn't answer the real question as to WHY this is the "worst possible choice that has to be made." The true answer as to why this is serious is because it is a question about life: to terminate a life. It is a life or death decision about a life: another's life. This is reason why this one very important question haunts the human mind and heart. It is this truth that makes this decision the worst, most serious and difficult.

Just because this is a serious and difficult decision it doesn't necessarily mean that what is decided is right. There is an argument or an implication that since it is the "...worst possible choice that has to be made," that no matter what the final decision is, the right decision was made. Seriousness and difficulty are not the validating factors for a right decision. Whether something is morally right or wrong, no matter how difficult the decision, is the measure.

When we struggle with moral decisions, we find ourselves struggling between what we want to do and what we ought to do. The subjective conflicts with the objective. We struggle with what we want to do, or even what we have already done, with what we ought to do or what we should have done.

Living in this world is difficult. Living the moral life is at times even harder. We are always in need of help in living the moral life. For the Catholic we find all the help we need in our Christian faith: our Church. Our moral life is reflected in and flows from our faith life. It is in our relationship with Jesus Christ that we find all the support necessary for living the moral life. This is the starting point.

At the heart of our Christian faith is one great truth. We can get a clear glimpse of it from the Gospel of St. John. John 3:16 tells us that "*For God so loved the World that he gave his only begotten Son... For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.*" God loves us and desires our salvation. God has sent His only Begotten Son to reveal God's great love. This love of God is perfectly revealed in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are reminded of God's perfect love every time we gaze upon the crucifix. This love is for all human lives.

Our life matters to God. In essence all lives matter. Human life is precious to God since God is the author of all life. At the conception of every human being, God creates a new soul: a soul that never existed before but is created at the time of conception. This newly conceived life is precious to the author of life: God. This newly conceived life has great value just as every human life has great value. It is a value given and not earned. It has a value bestowed by the author of life: God. This life must be respected.

The seriousness of the "worst possible choice that a woman and her family has to make" is because it is a decision about the termination a human life: the life of another. The choice for abortion is not about removing some unwanted tissue or unknown growth or organism. It is a decision about another's life. The issue is about a vulnerable life. This is the precise reason about why this is a serious, difficult gut-wrenching decision. Deep down within the core of our being, at the center of our own life, is our orientation toward life. The gut-wrenching experience is not only an attack on another's life; it is also an attack on our own life at the very core of our existence. This accounts for the seriousness of the decision: life, one's own and another's.

The essence of the struggle is about life. With life at the center of the struggle there should not be a struggle. The answer is clear: chose life. In truth the only struggle is the refusal to accept reality: the acceptance of the gift of life.

It is a curious thing that of all the animals of God's good creation, it is only the human being that welcomes and delights or panics and struggles with the news of conception. It only shows that with this wonderful God-given brain we are blessed with we can direct our thoughts in so many ways. We attach various levels of importance to all kinds of things. We use our minds to contemplate the mysteries of the universe. We contemplate the greatness of God and the heavenly realms or not. We easily pursue worldly endeavors tempted to make them our ultimate concern. We also decide various degrees of selfishness or selflessness. The mind is a great gift: for good or for ill. We can justify almost anything. We are most tempted with self-justification. Even with our great minds, we are still to be humble before the author of life: God. It is only when we are right with God our creator will be truly justified. Only God truly justifies us. When it comes to the abortion issue people try to justify their decision with themselves, with a group of like-minded individuals or even with our legal system. But that never satisfies. It is only when we are justified by God, do we find true peace of mind. Be right with God on this.

Pray for greater respect for life. Father Ralko

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

Church Support

October 11, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$9,256.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$5,367.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly deficit	\$(1,493.00)

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.

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.

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 are held in the Saint Nicholas Church Social Hall (Church Basement) Wednesdays, 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.

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 740-819-3429.



REFLECTIONS ON CHOOSING POLITICAL CANDIDATES

What is the candidate's commitment to protect all human life, from conception to natural death?

What is the candidate's commitment to addressing threats to marriage and family, as understood by the Church, as well as other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism and other unjust discrimination, the use of the death penalty, resorting to unjust war, the use of torture, war crimes, the failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or a lack of health care, or an unjust immigration policy?

How does the candidate measure up in both words and actions with the totality of Catholic Social Teaching?

What would be morally grave reasons to support and/or oppose a candidate? (Please refer to the U.S. Bishops document Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, paragraphs 34 through 37).

What is my assessment of the candidate's personal integrity, governing philosophy, performance and ability to influence a given issue?

Has the candidate demonstrated sufficient competency to hold such an elected position?

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

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.” Matthew 22:37

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Prayer Before an Election

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

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 26

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Michael L. Wilson**, Church

2:00 p.m., Rosary: Parish Office

TUESDAY, October 27

9:00 a.m., Mass: **St. Thomas Intention**, Church

[St. Nicholas Intention, F. Paul Nestor]

WEDNESDAY, October 28, SS. Simon and Jude

9:00 a.m., School Mass: **Judith Batross Goodrich**, Church

7:00 p.m., RCIA: Parish Office

7:00 p.m., Adult Children of Alcoholics: Church Basement

THURSDAY, October 29

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

[St. Nicholas Intention, Marjorie Connell]

FRIDAY, October 30

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Langdon Thomas**, Church

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

SATURDAY, October 31

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: **Eileen Gaab**, Church

SUNDAY, November 1

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

9:15 a.m., Sunday School: Parish Office

10:45 a.m., Mass: **Mary Pfeifer, anniversary**, Church

2:00 p.m., 2020 Confirmation Students Reboot Class: Parish Office

Readings for Week of October 26

Mon.	Eph 4:32-5:8	Lk 13:10-17
Tues.	Eph 5:21-33	Lk 13:18-21
Wed	Eph 2:19-22	Lk 6:12-16
Thurs.	Eph 6:10-20	Lk 13:31-35
Fri.	Phil 1:1-11	Lk 14:1-6
Sat.	Phil 1:1-18b-26	Lk 14:1, 7-11
Sun	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14	Mt 5:1-12a

Cantor Schedule Oct. 31-Nov 1

5:15 Ryan Teti

8:15 Sandy Black

10:45 Laura DeCoy

***Rosary before Mass

Saturday, October 31st - 5:15 p.m. Mass – Kevin Dooley