

# ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. Our Eucharistic Liturgy will be in observance of this Holy Day. In our tradition we are reminded that we have thousands of holy souls, saintly people of faith, who inspire us and who even now, pray for us. We pray in the Creed that we believe in the "*communion of saints*". Today we honor the Saints in thanksgiving for their holy examples in living the faith for which we are continually inspired. As we are in communion with them in Christ they continue to pray and intercede for us. In our prayer we seek their guidance and protection. In honoring the Saints, we honor God. It is God who has revealed his great love and graciousness in and through the lives of the Saints.

As we honor all the Saints of the Church, we also acknowledge those saintly people who have humbly lived the faith and are mostly overlooked. In fact, we may very well have known some saintly people who lived as followers of Christ humbly, graciously, devoutly and with fidelity. There are individuals who have been channels of God's grace, who have personally touched our lives and the lives of many with genuine goodness. Thank God. Their influences in our lives have encouraged us in our faith life.

If we pause and think about it, we have so many wonderful examples of faithful Christian living. The possibilities are endless when it comes to living the faith. What is important to notice is that Jesus Christ was the center of their lives. The importance of the Saints is the awareness that God always uses mediators to communicate his great love and goodness. This is true throughout the whole of Sacred Scripture. God works through people: He uses a mediator. This is true because God is a Personal God. Within God there is a Trinity of Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is personal, not some cosmic force, and communicates the most important personal things personally: i.e. the primacy of Faith, Hope and Love.

We say creation reveals something of God. Creation has God's "fingerprints" all over it. We see this in the laws of nature and the natural law. We see in the beauty of creation a glimpse of the beauty of God. We see God's goodness and harmony in the goodness and harmony of creation. Through creation we can know something *about* God. However, the essence, the very inner life of God, this must be communicated in a personal way. This is perfectly revealed in the second person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ we come to *know* God.

This revelation touches us deeply, our minds and hearts, through the third person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit; the Love of God. Holy Spirit fills us with the presence of God always ready to reveal God to us personally.

We do not worship objects, or any elements of creation. We worship a personal God who reveals himself to us through his Holy Word, the Incarnation, and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Thus, we say the one true God is a personal God. On this day we do not worship The Saints. We honor them. We are thankful for them who reveal the love and goodness of God to others.

Tomorrow we celebrate the feast of All Souls. We pray for all the deceased members of our families, friends and most especially we remember those parishioners who have died this past year. We have all been touched by death in one way or another. We all have had family members and friends who have passed away. With Christian charity we pause and pray for the repose of their souls. This is a good and charitable use of our time as we come to the end of another liturgical year. We reflectively recall and prayerfully intercede for them before our Heavenly Father. In fact, we are all in need of prayers because we are

sinners and are in need of prayers for God's gracious mercy. This is what we do as members of the Church.

There is much that we ponder when it comes to death. We do not like the idea and for some when we do speak of death there is a sense that this is morbid. But to think and speak of death is necessary at some point in our lives. Thus, we consider the "last things."

No one has ever lived without sin except for Jesus and his mother Mary. Apart from Jesus and Mary we have all sinned to in one way or another and to some degree of seriousness. The lasting effect of Original Sin is our predisposition to sin. Although washed away in Baptism, we still live with the effect of Original Sin. That effect is expressed as self-interest, self-centeredness and selfishness. This is part of our human lot in life. We are susceptible to sinful temptations that appeal to our self-interests. At times we literally "can't help ourselves." We need help and ultimately, we need a Savior. When it comes to our sins, God alone can forgive sin. This forgiveness is made real for us in the person Jesus Christ. With confidence we place our faith in the only Son of God and follow him. Jesus alone leads us to eternal life.

Yet a question still remains in the back of our minds. If Jesus has conquered sin and death, why do we have to pray for the dead? Aren't they already saved? For that matter, aren't we all saved?

Salvation is *assured* for all in Jesus Christ. Salvation is real. However, we must make the appropriate response for this gift from God. That response is acceptance of this great gift of God's mercy and forgiveness and thus living a life worthy of this awesome gift. As I have said before, the mercy and forgiveness won for us by Christ is not merely there to clean up our sinful choices, it is freely offered to fill us with grace *to avoid repeating* our sinful choices in the future. Sometimes we do not live a life worthy of the great gift we have received. We often take the mercy of God for granted. We do not fully appreciate the faithful love of God revealed in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our lack of appreciation is revealed in our falling back into our old patterns of sin. We even take God for granted. This usually happens over time as we become lazy and infrequent in our prayer life. We become less mindful of God. Repentance and conversion are part of a lifelong journey. We know this of ourselves. We should also need to be aware of this for those who have gone before us. So, we pray not only for ourselves but for one another and especially for those who have died. Prayer is an act of love.

When someone in our family or circle of friends dies, we want and hope they are in heaven with God. This is a loving, good and natural desire. However, if we are really honest, we know our loved ones who have died were not only good persons, but we are also aware of their shortcomings: their sins. We know the good and the bad in the life of our loved ones. True Love knows these things. A loving relationship knows the truth about self and the beloved. We know our beloved's virtue and their sins. Ask any married couple. We cannot close our eyes to this fact... no we must pray for them and for God's mercy and forgiveness. This is a form of intercessory prayer. It is an ongoing expression of faithful love.

Out of love we pray for our beloved dead. We pray that God in his infinite mercy may welcome them into his eternal Kingdom of peace and joy. Our deceased loved ones have us who remain to pray for them. On this day we also pray for all those poor souls in Purgatory who have been forgotten and have no one remembering and praying for them. Like us, they need our prayers and the purifying gaze of God's love. We pray that they

may humbly be open to that merciful and life-giving love of God: The Beatific Vision. May the loving gaze of our Heavenly Father purify their souls and perfect their love.

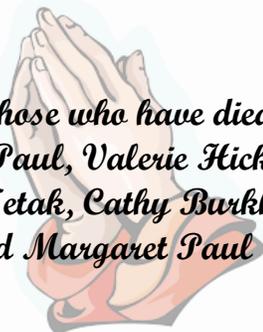
Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Have a great week.  
Fr. Ralko

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:*

*Richard Paul, Valerie Hickman,  
Myra Tetak, Cathy Burkhart  
and Margaret Paul*



Congratulations to Sam & Tiffany Warner who were married at St. Nicholas last weekend by Fr. Sean Dooley. Tiffany is the daughter of Marvin & Patty Paul.

## Church Support

October 25, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$8,928.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$5,039.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly deficit	\$(1,821.00)

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

**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.

### 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.



Forming Consciences for  
Faithful Citizenship

### What Public Policies Should Concern Catholics Most?

As Catholics, we are led to raise questions about political life other than those that concentrate on individual, material well-being. We focus more broadly on what protects or threatens the dignity of every human life. Catholic teaching challenges voters and candidates, citizens and elected officials, to consider the moral and ethical dimensions of public policy issues. Considering ethical principles, we bishops offer the following policy goals that we hope will guide Catholics as they form their consciences and reflect on the moral dimensions of their public choices:

- **Address the preeminent requirement to protect human life**—by restricting and bringing an end to the destruction of unborn children through abortion and providing women in crisis pregnancies with the supports they need. End the following practices: the use of euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of illness and disability; the destruction of human embryos in the name of research; the use of the death penalty to combat crime; and the imprudent resort to war to address international disputes.
- **Protect the fundamental understanding of marriage as the life-long and faithful union of one man and one woman as the central institution of society;** promote the complementarity of the sexes and reject false “gender” ideologies; provide better support for family life morally, socially, and economically, so that our nation helps parents raise their children with respect for life, sound moral values, and an ethic of stewardship and responsibility.
- **Achieve comprehensive immigration reform that offers a path to citizenship,** treats immigrant workers fairly, prevents the separation of families, maintains the integrity of our borders, respects the rule of law, and addresses the factors that compel people to leave their own countries.
- **Help families and children overcome poverty and ensure access to and choice in education,** as well as decent work at fair, living wages and adequate assistance for the vulnerable in our nation, while also helping to overcome widespread hunger and poverty around the world, especially in the policy areas of development assistance, debt relief, and international trade.
- **Ensure full conscience protection and religious freedom for individuals and groups to meet social needs,** and so enable families, community groups, economic structures, and government to work together to overcome poverty, pursue the common good, and care for creation.
- **Provide health care** while respecting human life, human dignity, and religious freedom in our health care system.
- **Continue to oppose policies that reflect racism,** hostility toward immigrants, religious bigotry, and other forms of unjust discrimination.
- **Establish and comply with moral limits on the use of military force**—examining for what purposes it may be used, under what authority, and at what human cost— with a special view to seeking a responsible and effective response for ending the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East and other parts of the world.
- **Join with others around the world** to pursue peace, protect human rights and religious liberty, and advance economic justice and care for creation.

“Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me.” - Matthew 5:11

# ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

## 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.

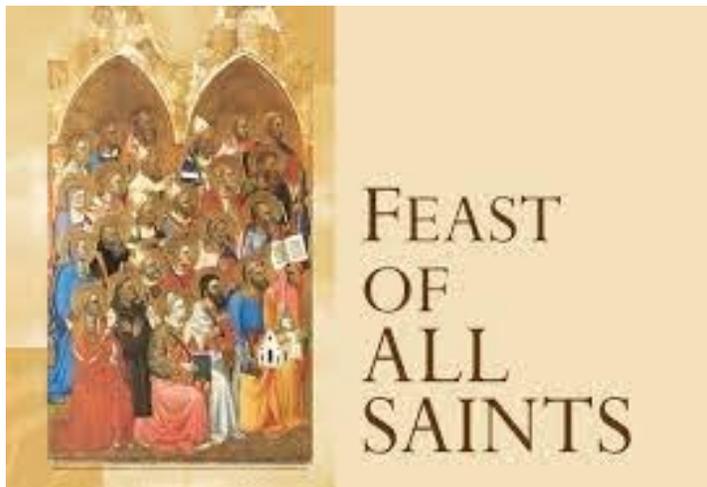
## ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

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, November 2, The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Bill Fleer, birthday, Church*  
2:00 p.m., Rosary: *Parish Office*

### TUESDAY, November 3, St Martin de Porres

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

### WEDNESDAY, November 4, St. Charles Borromeo

9:00 a.m., School Mass: *Albert Crock, anniversary, Church*  
7:00 p.m., RCIA: *Parish Office*  
7:00 p.m., Adult Children of Alcoholics: *Church Basement*

### THURSDAY, November 5

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

### FRIDAY, November 6

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Dorothy Freiermuth, Church*

## *32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### SATURDAY, November 7

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, *Church*  
5:15 p.m., Mass: *Joseph Barnes, Church*

### SUNDAY, November 8

8:15 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*  
9:15 a.m., Sunday School: *Parish Office*  
10:45 a.m., Mass: *Kathy Shawger, Church*

## *Readings for Week of November 2*

Mon. . . . .	Wis 3:1-9	Jn 6:37-40
Tues. . . . .	Phil 2:5-11	Lk 14:15-24
Wed . . . . .	Phil 2:12-18	Lk 14:25-33
Thurs. . . . .	Phil 3:3-8a	Lk 15:1-10
Fri. . . . .	Phil 3:17-4:1	Lk 16:1-8
Sat. . . . .	Phil 4:10-19	Lk 16:9-15
Sun . . . . .	Wis 6:12-16	Mt 25:1-13

## Cantor Schedule Nov. 14 & 15

5:15 Sandy Black  
8:15 Ryan Teti  
10:45 Lucille Morosco