

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Pastor's Desk

Every once in a while, when you think everything is going smoothly... Watch out! This past week we the internet went out. A distribution center in the area went wrong. Well that locked up almost everything in the office when it came to communications. It has been out for two days so far. I'm a bit of an old school individual about these things. Yet I also found that I was somewhat perturbed for a couple reasons. One being news and emails. The second, I didn't realize how dependent I had become on internet access. I don't use it for a lot of things, but it was a wake up for me. One small thing is a big deal. It is also something that I and for that matter all of us, do not have any control over this dependent wielding utility. It is right up there with electricity, water and gas. We trust all these utilities and depend on them. Then when they go out... we make every effort to maintain our routines. At this writing, Tuesday, and my hope is that the situation is rectified soon, more like today. How will I ever get this column to the printer? Will people be disappointed? Oh, the worries!

Continuing the writing of this column I am reminded of some of my preparations for the morning mass we celebrated for All Saints Day. As I was preparing for the mass, I was reading some reflections from some spiritual writers on the feast. There was one about the great Thomistic philosopher Jacques Maritain that caught my attention. He was originally an Atheist who, during his college years, found life to be meaningless. Drawn into despair he was actually thinking about the possibility of ending his life. Fortunately, he stumbled upon the writings of a Christian spiritual thinker by the name Leon Bloy. Bloy wrote... "*There is only one sadness in life and that is not to be a Saint*". For some odd reason this simple thought hit Maritain right between the eyes. Something about this started to make a profound change in his life. Not only his life but the life of a fellow Atheist who later was to become his wife. Who could have guessed such a radical change was precipitated by a quote that revealed the true meaning of life for every Christian? This is the meaning of life and the call for all Christian: to be Saints.

I had heard this quote a long time ago but today it comes to me as if I had read it for the first time. Yet this is the wonderful way that God speaks to us. Something that we have heard or read at one time comes back to us in a new way. We have a similar experience when we read the Sacred Scriptures. Sometimes a familiar passage hits with such a force that we feel as if we are reading it for the very first time. God will always surprise us if we are open to it. It is the prompting of the Holy Spirit: God, in his own unique way continually invites us to share in his life.

Nevertheless, we find ourselves pursuing many important things in life. Indeed, there are many important and pressing issues like work, family and many good things. Our time is constantly being consumed with so many activities. However, we are reminded that there is one thing that is most important in the midst of all this: we are called to be Saints first. It would indeed be the greatest tragedy in life if we did not desire to become Saints.

It seems like a daunting task to become a Saint. Indeed, it is virtually impossible to become a Saint on our efforts alone. It is only by the grace of God working through us that Sainthood is possible. I am reminded of St. Matthew's calling of his first disciples: Peter, James and John. Jesus called them with the words... "*Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.*" First there is the call of Jesus. Grace always initiates. The disciples hear and then act they follow the Lord. The important part of the calling of these disciples is found in the words... "*I*

will make you fishers of men." It is Jesus who will make them. It is an odd way to say it, but disciples cannot make themselves. It is the Lord who makes disciples. He is the one who teaches and shapes them. They merely cooperate with the work of the Lord allowing him to shape their lives. Discipleship is the path to sainthood. As disciples they are to give witness to the Lord in the world. Again, it is an odd way to say it, but they make present the Lord in the world, or they *incarnate his presence*. They make the word of God, Jesus Christ, present.

Disciples/Saints reflect the goodness of God to the world. They are not the origin of that goodness; they are the channels or the mirrors of God's goodness. As we celebrated the feast of All Saints, we honor the saints. It is in honoring the saints that we give our praise and thanksgiving to God. We are thankful that they have revealed the goodness of God in the world. They also inspire us to follow their example for the greater honor and glory of God.

It is not easy to be a saint in this life. Our personal sinfulness has a great deal to do with our struggle, difficulties and discouragements. However, the good news is that it is precisely where we are weakest because of sin that the Grace of God works in profound ways. St. Faustina tells us that the greatest sinner has the greatest claim on God's Mercy. We should not give in to the temptation or discouragement because of our failures. All is not lost. We can always start anew. We have all the help we need: the grace of God.

Returning to the call of the disciples, Jesus tells them to "*follow me*". Jesus is always in the lead. Jesus is always with us along the way, even in our trials in life. Sometimes we forget that important point. We never face our perils alone. Life is filled with challenges, trials and crisis. These often distract us, and rightly so because they press upon us with immediacy and force. Yes, they get our immediate attention. Yet when that happens, we take our eyes off the one who leads us. Psalm 23 reminds us and is fulfilled in Jesus the Good Shepherd... "*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me, your rod and your staff give me courage.*" Again, we never face our trials alone.

This is the path of discipleship. It is also the path to sainthood. It is the Lord who leads us and shapes our lives. This takes a great deal of love and trust in the Lord. This is especially important to recall that the walk through the darkest valley is also the *way of the cross*. Disciple ship necessarily means the way of the cross. "*Unless you deny yourself and take up your cross every day, you cannot be my disciples.*" This is not a matter of seeking trials and difficulties as if Christianity is somehow sadistic. Quite the contrary, Christianity is realistic because life is filled with trials and difficulties to a greater or lesser degree. That is life. However, Christianity has a great deal to say as to how we approach these difficulties. We don't look for sufferings; we just know that life in this world is filled with sufferings. We face them with Jesus who leads us. In our love for the Lord and our trust in him we face our struggles graciously.

We have the irrevocable and constant invitation of the Lord to follow him. He calls and he always provides the grace to bring that call to its completion. Grace is found in His Sacred Word to inspire us. God sent his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ who came to save us from sin and death. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leads us to eternal happiness in heaven. His grace is always with us in the Church and the Sacraments. In the Church and the Sacraments, we encounter Christ and receive the necessary grace to guide us along our way of discipleship and to Sainthood. As we celebrated the feast of All Saints, we are reminded that in the Communion of Saints we have the support of

the saints' prayers. Considering all of this we should have confidence in knowing we cannot fail. This is true unless of course, we do not have the desire within our hearts to follow the Lord, letting him shape our lives making us his disciples and ultimately to be a Saint. All we need is the desire and the openness. God will provide the rest.

"There is only one sadness in life and that is not to be a Saint."

Have a Great Week.
Fr. Ralko

This week we pray Week III of the Liturgy of the hours. Church Support

November 1, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$11,612.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$7,723.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly surplus	\$863.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Catalyst Nights- Students in grades 7-12 are invited to a Catalyst Night at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the activity center on Sunday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m. The evening is led by the National Evangelization Team (NET), college age missionaries. The night includes dinner, presentations, games, skits, prayer, friends and fun. This is a joint St. Thomas and St. Nicholas youth event, and all are invited.

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) **PLEASE NOTE THE MEETING CHANGE. ACOA WILL NOW MEET ON THURSDAYS** 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.



**The Parish Office will be closed
Wednesday, November 11 in
observance of Veterans Day.**

GRIEF TIP: During the holidays, do only as much as you are emotionally and physically comfortable doing. And attend the St. Nicholas Grief Support Program on Tuesday, November 17th. Come meet our new facilitator, Becky Joseph. Meetings are at 1:00 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. in the parish office meeting room. The meetings are offered twice in one day to afford the maximum number of participants. Perhaps you have lost someone or know someone who is grieving and would like to learn how to help them. Please join us. The program is free and open to all. Social distancing and face coverings are encouraged.

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.

OCTOBER BOOSTER MANIA WINNERS

\$100 Mark Dosch, \$50 Charlie White, \$25, Steve Dickerson, Jeff Shawger, Nancy Arnold, Karen Lyon, Barb Callahan, Greg Dodson, John Biedenbach, Mathew Smeider, Mike Schramm and Cheryl Pottmeyer



The Art of Trusting

ANDREA PANNELL, DIOCESAN HOPE TASK FORCE

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God" (Ps 20:7).

It can seem like we're living in a culture of distrust plagued by an unhealthy tolerance for obscured realities and distorted truths. We can find ourselves questioning whom and what we can trust as we experience growing frustration and fear in a sea of unknowns and doubt. The Psalm tells us that while others put their trust in things, we children of God, put our trust in the Lord. How do we fortify our trust in God especially in an era of such distrust? Well we can start by knowing that God first trusts us.

I remember my grandmother telling me that the indented space right below my nose was God's kiss. She followed that by saying, this meant I should be in no hurry to have my first kiss because I already had it. It still makes me smile thinking about her words to me and how it spoke to her faith that God loves us first. The desire to know the One whom we can trust unconditionally is placed in our hearts with our inception. The virtue of hope responds to this joyful aspiration, even more so in the distrusting times of adversity and hardship.

"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." - Matthew 25:13

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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 9, The Dedication of The Lateran Basilica

8:00 a.m., Mass: Nancy Davis, anniversary, Church
2:00 p.m., Rosary: Parish Office

TUESDAY, November 10, St. Leo the Great, Pope

9:00 a.m., Mass: Ned Englehart, Church

WEDNESDAY, November 11, St. Martin of Tours *Parish Office Closed*

9:00 a.m., Mass: Dixie Kriesel, Church
6:30 p.m., RCIA: Parish Office

THURSDAY, November 12, St. Josaphat

8:00 a.m., Mass: Bertha Haren, Church
7:00 p.m., Adult Children of Alcoholics: Church Basement

FRIDAY, November 13, St. Frances Xavier

8:00 a.m., Mass: Ron & Pauline Davis, wedding anniversary, Church

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SATURDAY, November 14

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: Shirley Knox, anniversary and Irene Dillon, Church

SUNDAY, November 15

8:15 a.m., Mass: Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Dury Council 505, Church
9:15 a.m., Sunday School: Parish Office
10:45 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church

Readings for Week of November 9

Mon.	Ez 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12	Jn 2:13-22
Tues.	Ti 2: 1-8, 11- 14	Lk 17:7-10
Wed	Ti 3:1-7	Lk 17:11-19
Thurs.	Phim 7-20	Lk 17:20-25
Fri.	2 Jn 4-9	Lk 17:26-37
Sat.	3 Jn 5-8	Lk 18:1-8
Sun	Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31	Mt 25:14-30

Cantor Schedule Nov. 14 & 15

5:15 Sandy Black
8:15 Kerby Staker
10:45 Lucille Morosco