

# OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King and the last week of the Liturgical Year. Next Sunday we begin a new Liturgical Year with the celebration of the First Sunday of Advent. Again, we enter the yearly cycle that tells the story of our salvation in Jesus Christ. Throughout the new liturgical year, we will primarily rely on the Gospel of St. Mark.

With this feast of Christ, the King it would be good for some information about this feast. This feast was established in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. The feast was established for the simple reason to counter secularism that was growing and becoming more prominent in the world. As you recall, this timeframe is post World War I. The socialist and communist ideologies began to take hold in the world before the Second World War. In the face of all these ideologies, which I suspect were attempts to give the world meaning and purpose, the Holy Father wrote an encyclical that established this feast challenging secularism. He started his letter with the words... "*Christ's peace through Christ's reign*". He cited secular ideologies in his letter as "*the apostasy of a great number of people who have banished Christ and his most holy law from their individual and familial lives and from public affairs.*" He added that there would be no hope for a lasting peace between peoples if nations and their citizens refused to affirm and proclaim the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ. He pointed out that "*we must look for the peace of Christ in the reign of Christ.*" We find peace when we have meaning and purpose in life. That meaning and peace can only be when Jesus Christ reigns in our lives.

In the Gospel of Matthew, which we have been praying with over the last several weeks, Jesus was proclaiming the Kingdom of God is in our midst. The Kingdom is here because Jesus Christ is in the world. He was making this proclamation amid the kingdom of the world; especially noted by the pagan Roman occupation in Jerusalem. The Kingdom of God was not welcomed. It was a threat. The Kingdom is about the genuine good of all people: salvation. The kingdom of this world is about itself: the good of the government. The people are good if they obey. The kingdoms of this world suppress people into submission. The Kingdom of God is about liberation of all people enslaved by sin: it's about the salvation of people and not of the various ruling powers.

Nevertheless, this feast finds its place at the end of the Liturgical Year as an emphasis on the coming of Christ at the end of time to fulfill and establish his Eternal Kingdom. "*Our citizenship is in heaven and from it we await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*" (Philippians 3:20). We are citizens of the Kingdom of God here and now as we await the coming of the Eternal Kingdom at the end of time. This is our final destination and true home. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ reigns supreme in his Eternal Kingdom.

Jesus proclaimed that the Kingdom of God is in our midst. Where there is Jesus there is the Kingdom of God. As we faithfully live our faith in Jesus Christ, we make the Kingdom present in the world today. This is a foretaste of the Kingdom in its fullness at the end of time. Some people have a mistaken notion that Christians want the Church to govern the world, even our country. The Church does not desire to be a theocracy. It just doesn't work that way. However, Christians should be involved in Government and the Government would be better for it. Why?

The faithful Christian is the one who faithfully devotes himself/herself to all that is true, good and just. We know that God is the source of all that is true, good, just and loving. This act of faith does not only exist in the Church, it is also good for society as well. The faithful Christian is faithful in his or her

civic duties for justice sake. All our relationships, in the Christian community and in society at large, are to be marked by our commitment to truth, justice, and goodness. This is not just a "Church thing" it is a social thing as well. This is something that is desirable for all and good for society at large.

Countering secularism Pope Pius XI was on to something very important. This is something that continues to resurface today. There remains a widespread growth of secularism in our world and in our country. It is not surfacing in a manner of force and fear even though there are incidence of violence and destruction. This is coming about in a less overt way. This comes about when the center of people's lives is something other than God. When people center their lives, the source of their meaning and purpose, something less than God, they freely give themselves up to imperfect and limited principles. This leads to disaster. When there is a dedication to something less than objective truth, justice and goodness there is a commitment to something flawed: subjective truth, justice and goodness. Pope Benedict XIV noted this when the newly established European Union omitted Europe's Christian heritage in its constitution. There was and is no mention of this influence in the general history of Europe. There was a systematic removal of all things religious: most glaringly in reference of Christianity's influence in forming Europe. This was the rejection of objective principles of truth and justice. Thus, he called this the "dictatorship of relativism."

With the excuse of not to be offensive to the secular ideologies, there has been a diminishing presence of the Christian faith. This is particularly noted by empty churches. There is a notable decline in marriages as well as Christian marriages and families: the place where the most important principles are learned: truth, justice, goodness, faith hope and love. Thus, with secular influences, the breakdown of marriage and the family, the Kingdom of God is not growing. People are freely surrendering to the secular influences and abandoning the faith. There are so many ideologies that appear to be acceptable and more important than the Kingdom of God. When the Kingdom of God is rejected society sinks its roots deeper into imperfect secularist ideologies. When these secularist ideologies are threatened expect violent reactions.

Again, Pius XI, *without Christ there cannot be true peace.* Without Jesus Christ reigning in our hearts, homes and society there is no true peace. With the secularist, peace is defined as the *absence* of conflict. It is shallow. For the Christian true peace is found with the *presence* of Christ. Christ is the one who unites, harmonizes and gives true peace. As we recall in the Gospel of St John: "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.*" (14:27). Peace is a gift that is given to us by Christ: Himself (God) who is the source of all that is truly good. Worldly peace is the *absence* of something. Christian peace is the *presence* of something or more exactly of someone: God: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is our ardent belief that we cannot have peace without Christ.

We see secularism happening within our country. Slowly but surely, we can detect that there is a movement to remove all things that refer to God and more particularly the Christian influence. This is a slow deliberate process. Yet as Pope Pius XI observed in his day, secularization of society comes about slowly and in small ways. We honestly witness this today. We see it in some of the healthcare issues and mandates: Little Sisters of the Poor, taxpayer funding of abortions: the life issues in general. We see it in the secularization of our schools and the rewriting of history. But what is interesting about these seemingly small and slow developments, when they are

confronted people think this is an over-reaction by religious zealots. Note well: the wheels of evil grind slow, fine and constant. Again, anyone who brings attention to these seemingly small things is judged to be ignorant, ridiculous and petty.

With this feast of Christ, the King we intend to renew our allegiance and devotion to Christ our King. He is the one who claims our first loyalty: “Christ’s peace through Christ’s reign. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus declared that the Kingdom of God is at hand. As we live as faithful followers of Christ, we make his kingdom present here and now. This is a foretaste of Christ’s Peace in its fulfillment when His Eternal Kingdom is brought to its perfect fullness at the end of time.

We have witnessed civil unrest with the desecrations and destruction of many Catholic Churches and monuments; yes, even here in our country. Very little has been mentioned in the secular media. The reality is that we live in a world that attempts to eliminate the only true path to peace: Jesus Christ. It was true in Jesus’ day, and it is true today. Thus, we celebrate this feast with renewed dedication to Christ and his Kingdom. We are his disciples. Christ is our King. We will not have peace until Christ reigns in our hearts. Come Lord Jesus.

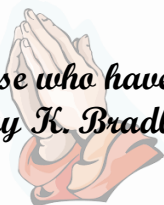
Have a good and blessed week.

Father Ralko

**Thursday: Thanksgiving Day.** We will have a morning mass at 8:00 a.m. St. Thomas will have a morning mass in their activity center at 9:00 a.m.

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:  
Mary K. Bradley*



## Church Support

November 15, 2020	
OFFERTORY	\$11,016.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$7,127.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly deficit	\$267.00

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

### YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Catalyst Nights – Students grades 7-12 are invited to a Catalyst Night at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the activity center on Sunday, November 22nd 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.

“...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me” – MATTHEW 25:40

### Happy Thanksgiving from Fr. Ralko and the Parish Staff

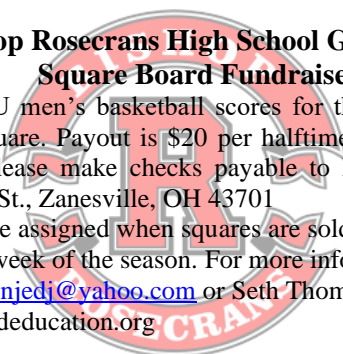
The Parish Office will be closed **Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd.** We wish everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving. Please join us for Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday at 8:00 a.m. We will be collecting food for Eastside Ministries. Baskets will be in the back of the church for your donation.

**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) **THERE WILL BE NO MEETING THIS WEEK. PLEASE JOIN US NEXT WEEK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</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.

### **Bishop Rosecrans High School Golf Team Square Board Fundraiser**

Based on OSU men’s basketball scores for the 2020-21 season. \$25.00 per square. Payout is \$20 per halftime score and \$30 for final score. Please make checks payable to BRHS and mail to 1040 E. Main St., Zanesville, OH 43701

\*Names will be assigned when squares are sold. Winners will be notified each week of the season. For more information contact Ed Johnston, [enjedj@yahoo.com](mailto:enjedj@yahoo.com) or Seth Thompson, [sthompson@cducation.org](mailto:sthompson@cducation.org)



### THE GIVING TREE



Every Advent we place a Giving Tree in the Church vestibule. It contains paper ornaments with gift items to be purchased for needy families. This year we will be giving the gifts to the Muskingum Valley Clinic for children, Heartbeats,

Transitions, and our own homebound St. Nicholas Parishioners. Please pick an ornament, buy the requested item, wrap and securely fasten the ornament tag to the package. All packages must be returned to the church by **December 13<sup>th</sup>**. You are always so generous, and we thank you for helping others this holiday.



### BLANKET DRIVE

Everyone loves a warm blanket on a cold night. The Good Samaritan Nurses Alumni are collecting clean blankets, new or gently used. We do this as a memorial to our nurses who have passed away. The collection will start on **December 1** and end on **December 31.** Drop off blankets at Eastside Community Ministries. Monetary donations can also be made to the Genesis Foundation by making checks payable to the Good Samaritan Nurses Alumni. Blankets are given to Eastside for their clients. If you need more information call Carol Kohler 740-453-9123. Thank you.

# OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Bishop Rosecrans High School will be hosting the Annual Board of Directors Meeting on 11/23/20 @ 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. The link will be sent home through DA and found on the Website, [www.rosecrans.cdeducation.org](http://www.rosecrans.cdeducation.org)

## 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.

## 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](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, November 23, St. Clement I, Pope

8:00 a.m., Mass: Thomas Trott, birthday, Church

### TUESDAY, November 24, St. Andrew Dũng-Lac

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

7:00 p.m., Pre-Jordan Class, Church

### WEDNESDAY, November 25, St. Catherine of Alexandria

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

6:30 p.m., RCIA: Parish Office

### THURSDAY, November 26, Thanksgiving Day

Parish Office Closed

8:00 a.m., Mass: Patrick Lyon, Church

### FRIDAY, November 27

Parish Office Closed

8:00 a.m., Mass: Bertha Haren, Church

## *First Sunday of Advent*

### SATURDAY, November 28

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: L/D members of the Harsh and Freiermuth families, Church

### SUNDAY, November 29

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

No Sunday School Today

10:45 a.m., Mass: Brian Sullivan, anniversary, Church

## *Readings for Week of November 23*

Mon. . . . .	Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5	Lk 21:1-4
Tues. . . . .	Rv 14:14-19	Lk 21:5-11
Wed . . . . .	Rv 15:1-4	Lk 21:12-19
Thurs. . . . .	Rv 18:1-2, 21- 23; 19:1-3, 9a	Lk 21:20-28
Fri. . . . .	Rv 20:1-4, 11- 21:2	Lk 21:29-33
Sat. . . . .	Rv 22:1-7	Lk 21:34-36
Sun . . . . .	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7	Mk 13:33-37

## **Cantor Schedule**

November 26<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving  
8:00 a.m. Sandy Black

November. 28 & 29  
5:15 Ryan Teti  
8:15 Sandy Black  
10:45 Lucille Morosco