

## 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we observe the Third Sunday in ordinary time. At this time, we step back in on reading from the Gospel of St. Mark. We have already touched upon the beginning of this Gospel with the introduction of John the Baptist. There was a very short statement of Jesus' baptism by John followed by a statement that Jesus went to the desert and was tempted by the devil. All of this was presented to the reader in the first fourteen versus of chapter one. Today we continue with the rest of chapter one which will take us up to the Lenten Season.

Today we hear about the calling of Jesus' first disciples. The story is related differently from what we heard last Sunday from the Gospel of St. John. The underlining point remains the same for the gospels; the first disciples were Peter, Andrew, James, and John. They abruptly begin to follow Jesus. They have no idea about what is in store for them in the future. The authority and power of Jesus' words inspired trust in following him: they dropped everything!

From here Mark proceeds to give his readers an account of a single day in the life of Jesus. This single day happens to be a Sabbath. The power and authority of Jesus' words is revealed as he teaches in the synagogue in Capernaum. As he teaches, he is confronted by an unclean spirit possessing a man in attendance at the synagogue service. Afterwards he proceeds to Peter's home and heals Peter's mother-in-law who has a fever. Then at sundown ending the Sabbath, he heals the many who gather outside the door of Peter's home. Jesus has a long and busy day in which he reveals his authority in word and action. The readers of the Gospel and the first disciples are witnesses to all that Jesus did on that single day.

Along with the disciples we are impressed with all that St. Mark relates to us. This was a pretty good start for the disciples (and us as we begin to read Mark's account). However, they have so much more to learn they have no idea what all of this means. For the most part they did not really know this man from Nazareth in Galilee. Yet there is something about his words and actions that revealed an authority that they could not resist. There is so much more that needs to be discovered about Jesus. This will take time. In fact, if we follow the estimated time of Jesus' ministry, it will take three years and then there is still so much more.

As in Jesus' day and is true today, there is always an introduction to the person of Jesus. There is something about the person of Jesus Christ that initiates a personal relationship. All such relationships take time. What is discovered is the knowledge that Jesus is the Son of God who reveals God. For all who desire to know God they must come to God's Son. We have read in the gospels that no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone whom the Son wishes to reveal him. Since we are created in the Image and Likeness of God, there is something planted deep within the human heart that impels us to seek God.

For many the introduction to the person of Jesus is found in the Gospels. For others there is the witness of other Christians: their words and actions inspire an introduction to the person of Jesus Christ. In a conversation I once had there was the thought "What if we had a video of Jesus?" Sure, it would be great to actually have raw footage of a day in the life of Jesus. But there is a major problem with this. It wouldn't help. We wouldn't understand a thing. We would have to have an interpreter. We would need someone to explain everything we saw in this video. For the most part we would be uninspired and confused.

The Gospels and the witness of the disciples are all about the business of interpretation. An interpretation is a translation of the life of Jesus Christ in word and deed. This is properly found

in the Church. The gospels themselves came out of the Church. The Church precedes the actual writing of the gospels. We know this from the letters of St. Paul which date before the writing of the first gospel (Mark) by about twenty years. Paul was writing to the various churches that were already established. His writings reflect doctrinal developments about Jesus and the church. He encourages the young church communities as well as corrects some of their understanding and practices. When it comes to interpreting the life of Jesus there is development in thought and in actions. The Church safeguards the authentic interpretation of the Gospels.

As followers of Jesus we are also charged to give witness in our words and actions. However, our personal witness must be tested and consistent with the teaching of the Church. When people ask, we offer our interpretation of our Christian faith in the manner of our life. We do this every time someone asks us about our faith. Properly speaking this is an interpretation of the faith. We do not want to speak falsely so we need to see if our understanding and actions are in harmony with the teachings and morals presented by the Church. We need the Church for this very reason: for our sake and for those around us.

There is so much to learn and that we need to continue to learn about the person of Jesus Christ. The Gospels are essential for this because this is where we encounter Jesus. I am reminded of a story about St. Ignatius of Antioch who lived from 35 – 110 AD. He was being led to Rome to face martyrdom for his Christian faith. He wrote "I flee to the gospel as to the flesh of Jesus Christ." In essence he was saying that the gospels do not merely tell him about Jesus, but they bring him into living contact with Jesus Christ. We need this.

Jesus' disciples spent time with him and were learning along the way. They made mistakes as well. An image of the difficulties that will come their way appears almost halfway through the Gospel of Mark. Jesus just fed the multitude with five loaves and two fish. He sends the disciples in a boat to cross the sea, dismisses the crowds and went up the mountain to pray. The boat the disciples were in was being tossed about by the waves. The disciples were in fear for their lives. Jesus came walking across the waters, they cried out; he calmed them and got into the boat. The turbulent waters subsided. In the larger picture they were the ones who were with Jesus; heard his teachings and witnessed his miracles. Jesus was revealing his identity to them as the Messiah, yet they still struggled. We are like them. We are familiar with Jesus' teachings and miracles. We know he is the Christ, the Son of God. We are aware and inspired by the witness of so many Saints in the long history of the Church. Yet we still have our struggles, our doubts, and our weaknesses. Even while we are in the boat (the Church) we are tossed about by the turbulent waves of this world. Our attention is easily grabbed by this sinful broken world. We always need Jesus: now more than ever. We need the Church where Jesus is present. We need the encouraging words of Jesus "Do not be afraid, it is I." The Words of Jesus, the Good News, is safely held in the Church and is proclaimed by the followers of Jesus.

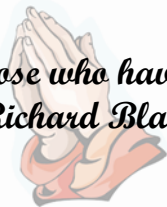
As we continue to read through the Gospel of St. Mark, we have the opportunity to come to know, love and serve the Lord in a greater way every day.

Have a great week.  
Father Ralko

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:*

*Richard Blaz*



**Next weekend, January 30 & 31, St. Vincent de Paul will be “Holding the Hat” during all Masses as a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection.**

**Church Support**

January 17, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$14,027.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$10,138.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly surplus	\$3,278.00

**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, **January 24th 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 teens grades 7-12 regardless of affiliation are invited. Parents are welcome!

**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). **MEETINGS ARE HELD 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.

**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

**INCOME TAX**

**If you would like to have a record of your donations to the Church for tax purposes, please fill in your envelope number, name and address or email and place it in the collection basket. A statement will be sent to you.**

Envelope No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ or  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_

St. Nicholas will hold a **Pre-Jordan Class on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Office building for parents and sponsors of infants and small children who are to be baptized. Please call 453-0597 to register for the class.

**The Catholic Foundation's Applications for Scholarships** will open on February 1 and close March 1. Since 2007, The Catholic Foundation has awarded over \$1,300,000 in scholarships empowering over 200 young people to continue their academic and vocational studies. For more information and to apply, please visit [www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships). If you have any questions about our scholarship process please feel free to contact Dan Kurth, VP of Grants, at 614-443-8893 or [dkurth@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:dkurth@catholic-foundation.org).

**Catholic Men's Conference: Called to Be Saints** - February 27, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This year's Columbus Catholic Men's Conference will be both virtual/online and in-person. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year's event will be small group gatherings at various parishes throughout the diocese along with live streaming on the Catholic Men's Ministry website, Facebook, and YouTube. Speakers include Devin Schadt, Chris Stefanick, Fr. Donald Calloway, and Bishop Robert Brennan. To register go to [www.cathollicmensministry.com](http://www.cathollicmensministry.com).

**WE NEED YOUR HELP FINDING OUR PEOPLE.** Even though we are not able to visit those in nursing homes and the homebound, we continue to send cards and deliver prayer books. However, it has come to our attention that some have moved. Please help us update our nursing home and homebound lists by notifying the parish office with the name and location of those who are either homebound or in nursing homes. We don't want to miss anyone! (740) 453-0597, ext. 14.

**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.

**BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS AND PRAYER CARDS!** Looking for a good read? A variety of good books are available in the vestibule, including children's books. The suggested donation is \$2.00 per book and proceeds are used to purchase additional books. Free copies of the "National Catholic Register", a Catholic newspaper that covers today's hot topics, are available on the front pews in the church and in the vestibule. Also, prayer cards and pamphlets on a variety of topics are available in the vestibule. These are also free. If you don't find what you're are looking for, try New Beginnings Book Store located at 1204 Brandywine Blvd Ste A, a locally owned Christian book/gift store.

## 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*He heals the brokenhearted and  
binds up their wounds.*

*Balm 147:3*



**THE SEASON OF HOPE**  
**Be in His comfort**

### 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, January 25, The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

8:00 a.m., Mass: Tom Nash, anniversary, Church  
2:00 p.m., Rosary, Parish Office Chapel

### TUESDAY, January 26, SS Timothy, and Titus

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

### WEDNESDAY, January 27, St. Angela Merici

9:00 a.m., School Mass: Robert Ralko, Church

### THURSDAY, January 28, St. Thomas Aquinas

8:00 a.m., Mass: St. Thomas Intention, Church  
7:00 p.m., Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting, Church Basement

### FRIDAY, January 29

8:00 a.m., Mass: Jeff Armbrust, Church

## *The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### SATURDAY, January 30

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church  
5:15 p.m., Mass: Margaret Paul, Church

### SUNDAY, January 31

8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church  
9:15 a.m., Sunday School, Parish Office  
10:45 a.m., Mass: Warren Mendelson, anniversary, Church

## *Readings for Week of January 25*

Mon. . . . .	Acts 22: 3-16	Mk 16:15-18
Tues. . . . .	2 Tm 1:1-8	Mk 3:31-35
Wed . . . . .	Heb 10:11-18	Mk 4:1-20
Thurs. . . . .	Heb 10:19-25	Mk 4:21-25
Fri. . . . .	Heb 10:32-39	Mk 4:26-34
Sat. . . . .	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19	Mk 4:35-41
Sun . . . . .	Dt 18:15-20	Mk 1:21-28

## **Cantor Schedule**

January 30 & 31  
5:15 p.m. Laura DeCoy  
8:15 a.m. Kerby Staker  
10:45 a.m. Janet Moses