

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

From the Pastor's Desk

I know we have several medical professionals in the parish, and I would like to make them aware of a conference being offered in Columbus that they may find to be of interest. The Diocese of Columbus would like to offer an invitation for all medical professionals, students, and interested laypeople to participate in the first “*Converging Roads*” health care ethics conference on Saturday, April 24 at the Pontifical College Josephinum. This will be held on the North High campus in the Jessing Center. This conference is co-presented by the Diocese of Columbus and the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio. The conference will also be available online. This will be the first diocesan sponsored bioethics conference and is a wonderful opportunity for clergy, physicians, nurses etc. to grow in faith at the service of medicine. Sponsored by the St. John Paul II Foundation, in collaboration with the Diocese of Columbus, and the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio, the conference will cover important and culturally relevant issues with excellent Catholic speakers:

- Medicine and Morals in Making Clinical Decisions – Greg Burke, MD, FACP
- The Catholic Health Care Professional in a Secular Society – Thomas W. McGovern, MD
- Accompanying Children in the Womb and at the End of Life – Robin Pierucci, MD, MA
- Access to Health Care for the Poor – Claudia R. Sotomayor, MD, DBe
- And much more!

What is *Converging Roads*? *Converging Roads* is a regional conference series offering continuing education for health care professionals that equips them to practice the highest ethical and medical standards of their profession. *Converging Roads* provides health care professionals, chaplains, students, and administrators with the most up-to-date training in health care ethics enabling them to more effectively care for their patients. An initiative of the St. John Paul II Foundation, *Converging Roads* is deeply rooted in the Catholic moral tradition and is presented in collaboration with the Diocese of Columbus and the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio. To learn more, visit [www.convergingroads.com](http://www.convergingroads.com).

*Converging Roads* will offer continuing education credits for health care professionals. For more information regarding continuing education or to register for the conference, please visit their website found in one of the notices found in this bulletin.

From last Sunday's first reading from the Second Book of Chronicles we read a reference to the Prophet Jeremiah. It is not often that we hear from the Second Book of Chronicles for our Eucharistic Celebrations. Last Sunday's passage was a short recap of the Babylonian Exile. This was a very dark time in the history of Israel. The infidelities of God's Chosen People were so great, there was no remedy! The Babylonians destroyed the city and the Temple and those who survived the sword were taken into exile. The Prophet Jeremiah declared... “*Until the land has retrieved its lost Sabbaths, during all the time it [lays] waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled.*” This is an incredible statement from the Prophet. It centers on the Sabbath and Sabbath rest. It is like saying, if the *people* do not observe the Sabbath and Sabbath rest; the *land* will now have Sabbath rest. There is an indication that the people did not observe the Sabbath and were not properly oriented to God which was displayed in their infidelities.

One of the themes that I have been sharing about the Ten Commandments is the point that they come from the Wise and

Loving heart of God. The God who created us knows us very well. God knows what we are capable of doing. God knows that left to us we will give into every selfish endeavor. We can destroy our relationships with one another and even destroy each other, ourselves and our relationship with God. The Ten Commandments are essential for our lives. They are guardrails on the road of life to keep us from self-destruction. We need help; we need the Law of God. The God who created us does not abandon us. God gives us everything we need to grow in His goodness/holiness to be his People.

On this theme I have often addressed the importance of “keeping holy the Sabbath”. There is great importance in keeping this Commandment especially if we pay attention to the Prophet Jeremiah from 2 Chronicles. The Third Commandment is one of the Laws of God and therefore it is essential and binding. It is not a law that is oppressive but one that is essential for the proper orientation of our lives and overall holiness. The practice of keeping the Sabbath, or in our case observing Sunday as a day of obligation, is to keep our lives in right order with God. If God is the Lord of our lives (First Commandment) then God deserves our deepest respect and reverence. We show our respect for God by protecting his Holy Name. We do not do wicked things in the name of God (Second Commandment). That being said, we must properly order our lives with God. This does not happen automatically. We must do something to keep that perspective alive and well. For the Christian Community it is Sunday worship where we keep that proper order. If God is not the center, something or someone else will take God's place.

First things first as we say. God is first over all things. For the Israelites and for ourselves as well, we come to worship God on the Sabbath. Our worship expresses our love and faithfulness to the one true God. We reaffirm our relationship. In return we receive so much more: we open our lives to the abundant grace of God that strengthens us to live as His people. For the Catholic Christian this is profoundly made manifest in our relationship with Jesus Christ. We worship and pray through Jesus to the Father; hence in prayer we say, “*Through Christ our Lord.*” God gives us more than we offer; we receive the Word of God and the Eucharist. God gives us Himself in his beloved Son, Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament. This properly orders our lives and sustains us in this world.

We must be right with God in order to keep our lives in all their complexity in proper order. When we do not keep holy the Lord's Day our week and our lives tend to become disordered. This is manifested in ways in which the small things in our lives become more important and the one important thing becomes nonconsequential. Our life and what we want becomes more important than God and ultimately, we place our will before God's Will. This is spiritual disorder. All we must do is look around our world and see all the chaos and disordered lives. Our world is disordered on so many levels: most especially spiritual disorder.

There was something that St. John Paul II wrote early in his pontificate that is helpful here. In his encyclical letter *Dives in Misericordia* (God, who is rich in mercy) he wrote to the effect that society is becoming more secular and less sacred. There is a “*desacralization*” that turns into “*dehumanization*”: the individual and the society for whom nothing is “*sacred*” suffer moral decay, despite all appearances. It sounds like Dostoevsky's comment, without God there is no right or wrong: all things are permissible. Immorality is dehumanizing.

We need to be freed from the disorder in our lives. We need to be right with God. For further reflection and a good place for an examination of conscience can be found in the *Catechism*

of the Catholic Church, notably the section on the Ten Commandments. There is a chapter for each of the Ten Commandments and then some. The content of these chapters is worth the time and effort to read, pray and reflect upon. We need to be serious about our lives being properly ordered to God. Let us use the gifts God has given us: His Word (Jesus Christ) and the Sacraments. When we welcome these God will draw us closer to Him and to each other.

Have a Blessed Week.  
Father Ralko

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:  
Virginia Morozowsky*

## Church Support

March 14, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$11,185.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$7,296.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly surplus	\$436.00

**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 **SATURDAY, MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** The event will begin immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. 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!

**CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS ARE REMINDED TO RETURN THEIR COMPLETED FORMS BY MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>.**

### K of C Fish Fry

The K of C will be offering fish fries once again every Friday throughout Lent. The hall opens at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday- Friday and 11:00 a.m. Saturday. Stop in and enjoy a meal with your fellow members.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** After enjoying a delicious fish dinner at the K of C, join us at St. Nicholas Church from 7:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. for Stations of the Cross.

### EASTER FLOWERS

Due to publishing deadlines we need to have donations for Easter flowers to the parish office by **Monday, March 22.** Thank you.

**Spring cleanup –Mt. Olive Cemetery will begin cleaning off wintertime decorations in preparation for mowing at the end of March. Families are advised to remove any personal keepsakes they wish to retain before March 31.**

### Pre-Jordan Class

Due to Holy week the **Pre-Jordan class** for March has been moved to **Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Office building. The Class is for parents and sponsors of infants and small children who are to be baptized. Please call 453-0597 to register for the class.

### THE GRIEF RECOVERY METHOD – GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP –

Maybe it just happened or maybe it was a year or more ago. Grief knows no time. Help is available. An 8-week program led by Becky Joseph begins **Tuesday, April 13th.** Two opportunities are available, 1:00 -2:00 p.m. or 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Meetings will be held in the Parish Office. Pre-registration is requested to aid in planning. Please call Patty (740) 453-0597 for more information or to reserve your spot.

### **We Want to Hear from You!**

Don't miss your chance to fill out the diocesan-wide Disciple Maker Index Survey through an online link through our website, <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/kk68bk2685> or by paper copy provided by your parish or Catholic school. The Disciple Maker Index (DMI) is an anonymous survey of parishioners that provides insights into the level of missionary discipleship in the parish in addition to the effectiveness of the Mass experience, preaching and other aspects of the parish. The survey window closes on **March 21**, so don't miss your opportunity to participate!

### **Employment Opportunity at Blessed Sacrament**

Blessed Sacrament, 394 E. Main St., Newark, is seeking a full time Bookkeeper. This candidate will be responsible for performing, but not limited to, bookkeeping and accounting duties. This candidate must be proficient in QuickBooks and Microsoft Office Suite/Excel. Nonprofit experience is helpful, associate's degree or equivalent with 3-5 years related experience or combination education and experience, excellent verbal and written communication skills. Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the Virtus "Protecting God's Children" program. Compensation commensurate with experience and ability. For more information about this position, go to [blsac.net](http://blsac.net) and click on "Hiring". Send cover letter and resume, salary requirement and references (3) to Jim Weisent, Business Manager at [busmgr@blsac.net](mailto:busmgr@blsac.net).

### **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 \_\_\_\_\_

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Join us for the **first *Converging Roads* medical ethics conference** presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation, the Diocese of Columbus, and the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio.

On the topic of **Health Care and Human Dignity**, this one-day conference offers continuing education for healthcare professionals rooted in the Hippocratic and Catholic ethical tradition.

**Saturday, April 24, 2020 | 8:30 AM – 7:30 PM**  
**In Person and Online | Pontifical College Josephinum | Columbus, OH**

Mass Celebrant: Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Columbus

Speakers: Greg Burke, MD, FACP; Thomas W. McGovern, MD; Robin Pierucci, MD, MA; Claudia R. Sotomayor, MD, DBE; and more!

In-Person Registration ranges from \$69-\$149 based on CME/CNE inclusion.

Online Registration ranges from \$39- \$119 based on CME/ CNE inclusion.

Student scholarship rate is \$15 for In-Person attendance and \$0 for Online attendance.

For more information, please visit [convergingroads.com](http://convergingroads.com) or email [sara@forlifeandfamily.org](mailto:sara@forlifeandfamily.org).

## 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 or the many needs of our nation, community, and parish.*

## ***What's Happening in Our Parish***

### MONDAY, March 22

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Linda Dosch, Church**  
2:00 p.m., **Rosary: Parish Office**  
5:00 p.m.- 6:30 p.m., **Confessions, Church**  
7:00 p.m., **Mercy Bible Study, Parish Office**

### TUESDAY, March 23, St. Turbius of Mogrovejo

9:00 a.m., Mass: **St. Thomas Intention, Church**  
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., **Confessions, Church**

### WEDNESDAY, March 24

9:00 a.m., School Mass: **Margaret Paul, Church**  
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., **Confessions, Church**

### THURSDAY, March 25, THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

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

### FRIDAY, March 26

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Audrey Ralko, Church**  
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., **Confessions, Church**  
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m., **Confessions, Church**  
7:00 p.m., **Stations of the Cross, Church.**

## ***Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord***

### SATURDAY, March 27

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., **Confessions, Church**  
1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m., **Confessions, Church**  
4:15 p.m. p.m.-4:45 p.m., **Confessions, Church**  
5:15 p.m., Mass: **Sandy Young, Church**

### SUNDAY, March 28, Palm Sunday

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

## ***Readings for Week of March 22***

Mon. . . . .	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62	Jn 8:1-11
Tues. . . . .	Nm 21:4-9	Jn 8:21-30
Wed . . . . .	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95	Jn 8:31-42
Thurs. . . . .	Is 7:10-14; 8:10	Lk 1:26-38
Fri. . . . .	Jer 20:10-13	Jn 10:31-42
Sat. . . . .	Ez 37:21-28	Jn 11:45-56
Sun . . . . .	Mk 11:1-10	Mk 14:1- 15:47

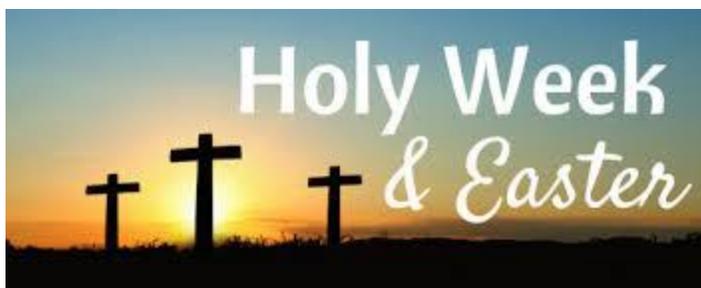
### **Cantor Schedule**

March 27 & 28

5:15 p.m. Kevin McCarthy

8:15 a.m. Sandy Black     10:45 a.m. Kerby Staker

## ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH



### Passion (Palm) Sunday

March 27, 2021 Mass at 5:15 p.m.

March 28, 2021, Masses at  
8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

### Holy Thursday

April 1, 2021

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00 p.m.



### Good Friday

April 2, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

### Monday of Holy Week

March 29, 2021

Mass at 8:00 a.m.

### Tuesday of Holy Week

March 30, 2021

Mass at 9:00 a.m.

### Wednesday of Holy Week

March 31, 2021

Mass at 9:00 a.m.

### Holy Saturday

April 3, 2021

Easter Vigil Begins at Nightfall



### Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021

8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

