

PENTECOST SUNDAY

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. We recall that powerful day that captures our imagination with the mighty wind shaking the place where the Apostles were gathered. Following the wind, tongues of fire appeared over the heads of the Apostles. St Luke's description draws us into the event. This biblical account from the Acts of the Apostles is read every year on Pentecost. Getting our attention, we are ready to contemplate and be enlightened by the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit is manifested as wind and fire: great biblical images.

The biblical imagery of Pentecost echoes the beginning of Sacred Scripture. "In the beginning..." Genesis tells us of a mighty wind hovering over the waters of chaos: the story of creation. Later in the Scriptures we read about God calling Moses from the "burning bush". On Mount Sinai, which is wreathed in smoke, we hear of wind, fire, thunder, lightning and an earthquake as Moses enters the cloud to receive from God the Ten Commandments. These are awe-inspiring manifestation of the presence of God: God the Father who speaks, God the Son (the Word) that is spoken and God the Spirit (the wind) that carries the Word of God.

This imagery of the Spirit of God as the mighty wind over the chaos at creation, followed by the Word that is spoken, creation comes into being. The Fire and the Word spoken from the bush are the presence of God. These manifestations of God's presence find their fulfillment in the Incarnation: Jesus Christ. The Word and the Spirit work together in this world.

The Incarnation begins with the Holy Spirit overshadowing Mary at the Annunciation. Jesus, who is conceived by the Holy Spirit is the Son of God the Father: God became man. In the person of Jesus Christ, we have the fulfillment of God's Word spoken to humanity. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God creates enflames and inspires the mind and the heart of the lives of all who are open to receive this gift from God. Like the beginning of creation, there was nothing, absolute emptiness. Nothing comes from nothing. It is only by the intervention of the Wind and the Word that order is brought out of chaos: creation.

With the Incarnation, who is necessary because of the chaos caused by sinful humanity, order is restored by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God: the Christ. Carrying the imagery forward we need the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to restore order out of the chaos caused by our sinfulness. We can't save ourselves; we can only receive salvation as a gift from God. So, like Mary at the Annunciation, our response is "*let it be done to me as you say*".

Today we recall the Holy Spirit descending upon the Apostles (the Church) on Pentecost. On this feast these biblical images spark the imagination about creation and the fall, the story of salvation history and God's plan to reverse the chaos caused by sin. We contemplate the Incarnation and Jesus' mission to restore the order by conquering sin. Now we recall the beginning of the Church, the enduring presence of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in the World. These are wonderful images for our reflection. God is good and we are inspired by the many ways God reveals His goodness and His plan of salvation.

We often hear the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and Love. These two important characteristics are important and are inseparable. We call the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Love. We know the Holy Spirit is the perfect love between the Father and the Son. The Love between the Father and the Son is absolute,

complete and perfect. The Holy Spirit is so perfectly actualized that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person: The Third Person of the Triune God. The Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son because the exchange between the Father and the Son overflows and is the cause of all life. The Love of God continually is poured forth upon us. We call this love the Holy Spirit; the Grace of God; the presence of God.

We would never know of this without Divine self-revelation: Sacred Scripture. We just do not arrive at this knowledge on our own. The Self-revelation of God is ongoing from the beginning of time, in the Scriptures and perfectly revealed in Jesus. This continues to this day in the Church. Humanity is incapable of receiving the fullness of this revelation all at once. God is patient with humanity. The Self-revelation of God is given as humanity is able to receive. The love and goodness of God is always ever-present but our ability to receive and understand takes time. We see this in the flow of Sacred Scripture. Overall, this the Holy Spirit was and is ever-present guiding God's people throughout history. God, although hidden is ever-present.

The overflowing Love of the Triune God is perfectly manifested in the Incarnation of the Second Person when the Holy Spirit overshadowed the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Incarnation, the Word made flesh, is the same Word, "riding on" the Mighty Wind, through whom all creation comes into being. Creation is the spontaneous act of God's overflowing love. The Incarnation is this act of love in its perfect manifestation. Jesus Christ perfectly reveals the love of God. Jesus Christ, the Divine Logos (Word) is the source and truth found in all creation.

On the day of Pentecost, the presence of the Holy Spirit was manifested as wind and fire. The spoken word needs wind/air in order to be spoken and heard. At creation the "Mighty Wind" was present over the waters of chaos then God spoke and order was created out of chaos. Now the "Mighty Wind" shook the place where the disciples were and the Church was created. The Apostles went out and spoke to the crowds who were from different places and they heard the Word in their native tongue. The diverse crowd was united (rightly ordered) in the Word (Jesus Christ) proclaimed. The Word of God proclaimed by the Apostles creates order. We witness renewed order in creation. This order is found in the Church: The Body of Christ.

We always need the Holy Spirit, that "Mighty Wind" to carry the Word of God into our minds and hearts. We take for granted that the spoken word needs air/wind in order to be said and heard. We overlook our need for the Holy Spirit to carry the Word into our sinful world: chaos caused by sin. We personally need the Holy Spirit to carry the Word of God into our minds and hearts to inspire, animate and reorder our lives to Christ. Come Holy Spirit.

Fire also reminds us of the first element of creation: Light. God said, "let there be light!" The Word of God is light. The Word of God illuminates and inspires. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. The people who live in darkness have seen a great light. The tongues of fire that appeared over the heads of the Apostles is the light that illuminated and inspired the Apostles. This illumination is brought to the people who hear the Word of God proclaimed by Apostles. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles are sent to proclaim Jesus Christ inspiring and unifying the nations. This illumination is for all nations through the Church.

The descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles is the image of the Holy Spirit descending upon the Church. The Church, just like the Apostles, is animated in love and truth. In the Church we

have the Word of God and the Holy Spirit that animates the presence of God in our midst. In the Church we encounter Jesus Christ: The Love, Truth and Life. On Pentecost the Triune God has given us the Church empowered by the Holy Spirit and the Word. The gift of the Church is the continuing presence of Christ. Thus, we trust the teachings and the sacraments of the Church because they are encounters with Word animated by the Holy Spirit.

This week many of our students will be graduating from their various schools. We wish them all the very best as they complete this milestone in their lives. We encourage them and wish them God's Blessings as they continue to further their education or upon entering the workplace. We pray for their success in life and remind them that in all they do in life they must keep their Catholic Christian Faith in the forefront of their lives. The Catholic Christian Faith touches and sustains them in every aspect of their lives. When our Faith is placed first above all else, everything fits into its proper place. Jesus' own words say it all, "What profit would a man show if he were to gain the whole world and destroy himself in the process?" (Matt 16:26) Stay close to God; trust the Holy Spirit and all will be well.

Come Holy Spirit and blessings to all.
Father Ralko

This week we pray Week IV of the Liturgy of the Hours.

We welcome into the church the recently baptized:

*Caydin Brian, James Francis and Chloe Rose Sullivan,
children of James Sullivan
and Austin Michael Wilson
son of Chase and Abby (Leitenberger) Wilson*

Church Support

May 16, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$12,209.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$8,320.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly surplus	\$1,460.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

Pre-Jordan Class

Pre-Jordan class for May is **Tuesday, May 25 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.

Saint Nicholas Religious Education needs volunteer teachers and substitute teachers. The 2021/2022 school year begins **Sunday, September 12, 2021**. Classes will be held in the Bishop Fenwick School building "at the top of the hill". If this is something you feel you would like to do please call 740-319-2170 and talk with Suzanne or Kevin Dooley. Thank you!

Next weekend, May 29 & 30, St. Vincent de Paul will be "Holding the Hat" during all Masses as a 2nd collection.

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.

St. Nicholas Church is looking for someone to take over the responsibility of decorating the church. The main times of the year are Easter and Christmas. If interested, please call the parish office, 453-0597.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (including those who visit the Homebound and nursing homes) should attend the Training to be held on **Wednesday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Church. Only those who attend the training will be placed on the upcoming schedule and will be permitted to take Holy Communion to the homebound and nursing homes.

Lector Training – All Lectors should attend the training on **Tuesday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Church. Only those who attend the training will be placed on the upcoming schedule.

Stop Taxpayer Funded Abortion. The Hyde Amendment has protected Americans from funding abortion for 45 years. It's credited with saving the lives of over 2.4 million children to date. Now, powerful members of Congress want to take away this law that both Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century. Without it, billions of taxpayer dollars could go to abortion. It is critically important for Catholics to send a strong message before Congress moves forward to impose taxpayer-funded abortion. Catholics are urged to sign a petition at www.notaxpayerabortion.com.

Real Presence, Real Future reflections: Come, Holy Spirit!
Deacon Joe Knapke, Ss. Simon & Jude Parish, West Jefferson, OH

After greeting His disciples, in His Real Presence, with a blessing of peace, Jesus breathed on them, bestowing the Holy Spirit, declaring they could forgive sins in His name. Through our baptism, we have each been blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit operates in us, guiding and strengthening us on our mission. May the Holy Spirit bring reconciliation and peace to our lives, our Church, and our world. As we celebrate Pentecost, let us pray that the Spirit impels us to renew our Real Future efforts to build God's kingdom in our Diocese and throughout the world.

PRAY THE ROSARY!

Join the Parish in Praying the Rosary Each weekend of May, St. Nicholas parishioners will pray the Rosary before each Mass. Please come about 30 minutes before Mass and pray the Holy Rosary during Mary's month of May. If you would like to volunteer to lead the Rosary, call 740-453-0597. There Rosaries in the Pews. Please feel free to take the Rosaries and prayer cards found in the pew for your own personal use or for sharing with others. All are welcome to pray the Rosary on Monday's in the Chapel in the Parish Office at 2:00 p.m.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL TEENS

2021 NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE –
“ABLAZE”

The event is to be held **November 18-20, 2021**. This exciting three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment for Catholic Teenagers. Includes 3-night stay at a hotel and coach buses round trip. Parents may attend with their students. (This includes students who will be Freshmen through Senior in November 2021). For more information call the parish office (740) 453-0597 ext. 14.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us as we study the Bible Timeline from Ascension Press. Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the parish office beginning **Tuesday, June 22**. This 24-week study covers Genesis through the Acts of the Apostles. Please call the office to preregister. Books are \$40.00 and include online access to the videos. Please register by June 4th to ensure your book is delivered on time. (740) 453-0597 ext. 14.

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

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, May 24, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Sandy Young, Church*

2:00 p.m., Rosary: *Parish Office*

7:00 p.m., Mercy Bible Study, *Parish Office*

TUESDAY, May 25, St. Bede the Venerable

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

WEDNESDAY, May 26, St. Philip Neri

9:00 a.m., School Mass: *Valerie Hickman, Church*

THURSDAY, May 27, St. Augustine

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

FRIDAY, May 28

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Burkhart Family, Church*

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

SATURDAY, May 29, St. Paul VI, Pope

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: *Hope Buchanan, anniversary, Church*

SUNDAY, May 30

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

10:45 a.m., Mass: *Ann Arnold, birthday, Church*

Readings for Week of May 24

Mon.	Gn 3:9-15, 20	Jn 19:25-34
Tues.	Sir 35:1-12	Mk 10:28-31
Wed	Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17	Mk 10:32-45
Thurs.	Sir 42:15-25	Mk 10:46-52
Fri.	Sir 44:1, 9-13	Mk 11:11-26
Sat.	Sir 51:12cd-20	Mk 11:27-33
Sun	Dt 4:32-34, 39-40	Mt 28:16-20

Cantor Schedule

		The Most Holy Trinity
May 29	5:15 p.m.	Sandy Black
May 30	8:15 a.m.	Kerby Staker
	10:45 a.m.	Lucille Morosco