

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. There has been a great deal of ink used in writing about and reflecting on the Divine Mystery of the Holy Trinity. This is a Super-natural mystery, not to be solved, but rather for the ongoing discovery of the eternal truths hidden in this Mystery. Like a mystery there is the desire to discover the truth that solves the mystery: like a good novel. As a super-natural mystery, the discovery of Divine Truths is eternal since God is eternal: the discovery of truth that is never exhausted. The insights keep coming and are spiritually and theologically nourishing. God is eternal. Therefore, our reflections on God, the Most Holy Trinity, will provide a lifetime of spiritual insight and nourishment.

One thing that can be helpful in a reflection on the Holy Trinity is to focus on the notion that within the Godhead, the Holy Trinity, there exists a *communion of persons*: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are a communion of *Divine Persons* in perfect Love. This is the essence of God: God is Love. Our human experience of love, even at its purest form in this life, is only a slight glimmer of Divine Love. We cannot comprehend the totality, intensity, purity and completeness of Divine Love. Even though, there is still an inexhaustible amount of insights that we can learn from the Divine *communion of persons*.

On a purely human level every one of us is the result of a *communion of persons*: our parents. Our parents are the penultimate cause of our human existence. Yet there is something of God hidden in this human origin that speaks of our calling and our final destiny: our origin is communion, we seek communion in this life and our final destiny is perfect communion. In other words, love is our origin, love is our constant calling and love is our final destination. The *communion of persons* that we speak of as the Holy Trinity is the origin of all creation: the origin of all life. On a deeper level, beyond the veil of our humanity, our life ultimately comes from God. Our life is also lived in search of God. Our life is destined to be in God. Our life is set on a course that seeks a communion of love. Put in another way, love seeks life and life seeks love. Created in the Image and Likeness of God, we are drawn and destined to Love and Life which is written into our very being. This is written into our soul: our seeking love and life: God.

Planted in the human heart is "desire". God has planted desire in the human heart. It is the desire of and for love: God. Throughout our lives we seek to fulfill that desire. We can all acknowledge that we sense this deep desire within our hearts. Throughout our lives we seek to fulfill that desire. We find ourselves seeking after many things with that hope that this thing will fulfill that desire. At some point we need to realize that this desire must be properly ordered toward persons not things. Authentic human love is personal. In this transitory imperfect world, we find that we are never satisfied by material things. Love grows in perfection when directed toward persons yet not perfectly fulfilled in this world. That is the lot of living in an imperfect world. We move toward perfection but we will never achieve perfect fulfillment in this life. Yet we continue to strive, but we have no illusions about this life being inadequate in fulfilling the deepest longing of our hearts. We must come to know that our ultimate desire is for God. Sometimes we need to be reminded.

There is a reason why God planted desire within the human heart. God planted desire in our hearts for a purpose. It is a desire for God. It is this simple understanding that inspired St. Augustine to write in his Confessions... "*You made us for yourself O God and our hearts are restless, our hearts are restless O God until they rest in You.*" St. Augustine expresses this simple experience that is so

easily overlooked in our busy lives. Perhaps this desire, planted by God in our hearts, is a desire that is intended to last a lifetime: a life-long search for God from cradle to grave.

Our Catholic Christian tradition is imbued with this Trinitarian reality. Consider the Sacraments of the Church. All of the Sacraments are encounters with Christ. In reality they are encounters with the Holy Trinity: The Divine *Communion of Persons*. Each sacrament expresses an effective dimension of this *Communion of Persons*. The three sacraments of initiation effectively draw us into communion with God. We are now children of God: brothers and sisters in Christ inspired and nourished. The sacraments of healing effectively heal us in our relationship with each other and with God. The vocational sacraments orient our lives to share in the mission of Jesus: drawing others into that communion with God and building up the Church: The Kingdom of God. All of the sacraments are encounters with Christ: encounters with God. The Sacraments are Trinitarian because they are about communion with God.

There is hope in this celebration of the Most Holy Trinity. This mystery speaks of our origin. This mystery of faith also gives us joyful confidence in our ultimate communion with God at the end of time. Knowing that God is a communion of persons, a communion of love, we should appreciate that our God is *personal and loving*. This touches us deeply: personally. It speaks to the highest of human virtues: love. It's all good. This goodness gives us joy.

Tomorrow we celebrate Memorial Day. It is a custom of many to visit cemeteries on Memorial Day. It is a good and pious practice to visit the graves of our relatives, especially those who have served our country well. It is an impressive and beautiful thing to see all the flags marking the graves of our deceased service men and woman. A quick glance tells us that many of our own have served our country. For this we are thankful. With grateful hearts we remember and pray for them. Our prayers for the repose of their souls are a good thing. "*Eternal Life grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*" Amen.

As we remember and pray our veterans who have died, we pay particular attention to those veterans who have died this past year. As a good practice for Memorial Day may I suggest morning mass. Mass will be at 8:00 a.m. This is a liturgy that has been well attended in the past. As I think over the past couple years, I have always been impressed by the large number of parishioners who mark the National Holidays by starting their day by attending the Eucharistic Celebration. The prayers offered for the intentions of our country are important and our parishioners prove their good citizenship by seeking God's blessings on our country, our leaders, the common good of her citizens, and the repose of the souls of our departed veterans.

Lastly, the liturgy for tomorrow will be the observance of the Feast of the Visitation (May 31). We commemorate the occasion when Mary, the Blessed Mother, went to visit her relative Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. The Angel revealed that Elizabeth, who was beyond childbearing years, was with child. The Mother of the Redeemed visits the Mother of the Baptist. This is the encounter of the Old Covenant with the New Covenant.

God Bless you
Father Ralko

This week we pray Week I of the Liturgy of the Hours. Church Support



The Daughters of Isabella seek to promote the welfare of the community in accordance with the teachings and rules of the Catholic Church through unity, friendship and charity. All women age 16 and up are welcome to join us. The next meeting is **Tuesday, June 8 at 6:00 p.m.** at the St. Nicholas Parish Office. Please bring your lawn chairs, we will meet in the courtyard, weather permitting. We will meet in the Parish Office Upper Level the case of inclement weather.

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: The Great Commission Is for Us, Lori Dulin, Office of Catholic Schools

The Great Commission, Jesus' command to "make disciples of all nations," implores the apostles and *each of us* to be truly formed missionary disciples who reveal Him to others through the work of our Church. Pope Francis states, "Evangelizing presupposes a desire in the church to come out of herself and go to the peripheries." This means travelling beyond our pews to bring the Gospel message and the knowledge of Jesus everyone everywhere. His continued command of "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" blesses us to go forth and witness to His **Real Presence** in our midst!

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

May 23, 2021

OFFERTORY	\$6,318.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$2,429.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Deficit this week	\$(4,431.00)

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

We pray for those who have died recently:

*Richard Emmert, Chad Maziar
and David Wagner*

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!

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.

This 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.

Men of the East Traveling Holy Hour

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 394 E Main St., Newark, OH 43055 will host the Men of the East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday, June 10th, 2021 starting at 7:00 pm in the Church. All Men of the twelve-parish consortium are invited and encouraged to participate in these once-monthly Holy Hours.

Eucharistic Adoration: All are encouraged to participate in Eucharistic Adoration, June 1. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and will end at 4:00 p.m. Two people per hour are needed to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament, in prayer and devotion. Please contact the parish office to sign up for your hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 or pboggs@stnickparish.org.

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by June 4th to ensure your book is delivered on time. (740) 453-0597 ext. 14.

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Jubilee of Anniversaries Celebrates Marriages. Bishop Robert Brennan will recognize the gift of Holy Matrimony at the Diocesan Jubilee of Anniversaries Celebration taking place on Sunday, June 27, with 2:30 Mass at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Powell. Married couples celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary in 2021 - or every five-year anniversary thereafter - are invited to attend, as well as ALL couples celebrating 60 or more years of marriage. The Jubilee Mass will be livestreamed for couples who prefer to attend virtually, and family members. All registered couples, whether attending or not, will receive a personalized certificate. Couples who R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, June 16, will be included in the Mass worship aid and The Catholic Times. Visit www.columbuscatholic.org/marriage-enrichment to register and for more information, or contact the Marriage and Family Office at (614)-241-2560

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 31, The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m., Mass: Sally & Bill Fleer, Church

TUESDAY, June 1, St. Justin

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

WEDNESDAY, June 2, Sts. Marcellinus and Peter

9:00 a.m., Mass: William Kohler, Church

THURSDAY, June 3, St. Charles

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

FRIDAY, June 4

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

8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Church

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

SATURDAY, June 5, St. Boniface

1:30 p.m., Wedding- Ryan Amspaugh & Alyssa Ginikos, Church

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: L/D Members of Adell Williams family, Church

SUNDAY, June 6

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

10:45 a.m., Mass: Dee Joseph, birthday, Church

Readings for Week of May 31

Mon.	Zep 3:14-18a	Lk 1:39-56
Tues.	Th 2:9-14	Mk 12:13-17
Wed	Tb 3:1-11a	Mk 12:18-27
Thurs.	Tb 6:10-11	Mk 12:28-34
Fri.	Tb 11:5-17	Mk 12:35-37
Sat.	Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20	Mk 12:38-44
Sun	Ex 24:3-8	Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

Cantor Schedule

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
June 5 5:15 p.m. Sr. Bernadette
June 6 8:15 a.m. Janet Moses
10:45 a.m. Rachel Taylor

